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## GATES V. AMERICA IS HE GETTING TOO BIG FOR HIS BOOTS?

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## STEPHEN GOODWIN THE END OF MY EVEREST DREAM?

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## PHIL HAMMOND MY NIGHT OF SHAME WITH PAUL MERTON

HEALTH, PAGE 13

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

# THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 12 May 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,608

## Blair: 'We did nothing wrong'

By Fran Abrams and Andrew Buncombe

TONY BLAIR yesterday backed the diplomat alleged to have helped organise the overthrow of the Sierra Leone regime with the support of mercenaries.

The Prime Minister said that while sanctions should never be broken, Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, had "done a superb job".

Mr Blair's backing of his diplomat, seen as a softening of the Government's line on the "Arms to Africa" crisis, came as more details emerged over the role of Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd in the operation to restore elected president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

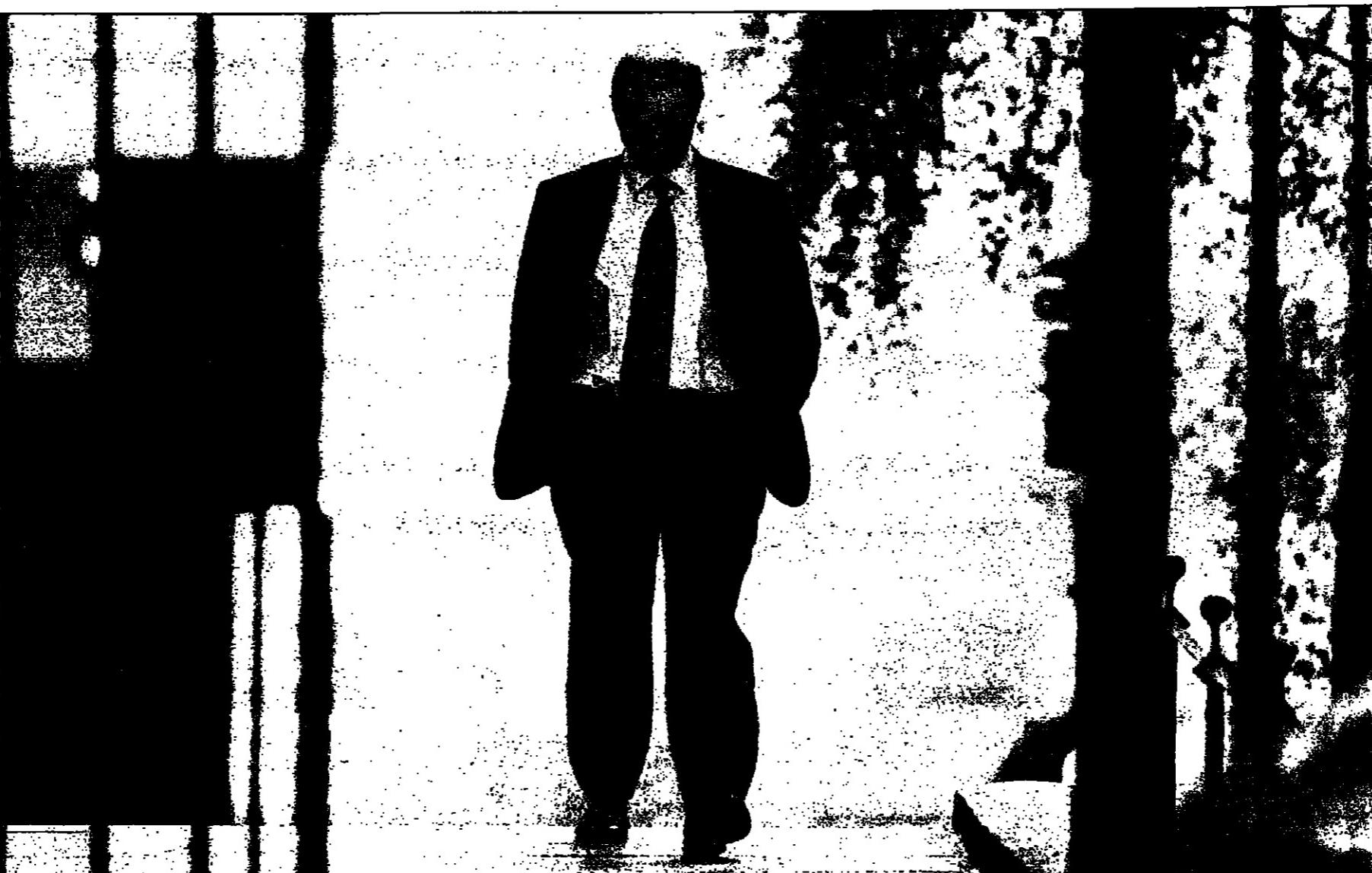
*The Independent* has learnt that key members of a network linked to the mercenaries were invited to a conference organised by the Foreign Office at which Mr Lloyd was a guest speaker. At the conference, held to discuss the restoration of deposed President Kabbah, Mr Lloyd said: "The message to [the rebels] and let me make this absolutely clear, must be to get out while the possibility of doing so peacefully still remains".

Mr Lloyd has insisted he was not aware that the plan to restore President Kabbah involved Sandline, the "military consultants" headed by the former British army officer Lt-Col Tim Spicer. However, many people at the conference were aware that President Kabbah and his exiled government were negotiating with Sandline to provide weapons and training.

Among these individuals was Rupert Bowen, a former diplomat currently employed by Branch Energy, a mining company partly owned by Tony Buckingham, which shares a London address with Sandline.

Mr Bowen, the former first secretary to Namibia, is considered a key member of the Sandline network and sources say he is an important figure in introducing the company to new foreign governments. Robert Brown,

Backing for FO as new evidence emerges of contacts with mercenaries



Robin Cook deep in thought as he walks along Downing Street for a meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday as the row over arms to Sierra Leone raged. Photograph: AP

another Branch Energy employee, was also at the conference.

Also present was John Hirsch, the US ambassador to Sierra Leone. Last week, Sandline said it had regularly briefed him on its operation. In addition to President Kabbah,

members of his exiled government who arranged the deal with Sandline, were also present.

Mr Blair yesterday described the growing political row over Sandline's shipment of arms to Sierra Leone in apparent breach of UN and EU sanctuaries as "hoo-haa". He said: "Let's not forget that both the UN and the UK were trying to help the democratically elected regime to restore its position from an illegal military coup."

"It was a democratically elected regime that people were trying to help. They were quite right in trying to do it."

"Nobody should ever act in breach of a UN arms embargo but Mr Penfold did a superb job last year in dealing with the consequences of

"His comments not only undermine the Customs and Excise investigation into allegations of criminal misconduct but also contradict the Foreign Secretary's statements to date."

"The confusion over the Government's position has deepened and we still don't know whether ministers are telling the full story."

Later, in the House of Lords, the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons suggested that arms shipments to the exiled Sierra Leone government were illegal whether or not they were shipped directly to the country.

"As I understand it, the Sierra Leone UN sanctions order prohibited sale or supply of arms ... for the purpose of delivery directly or indirectly or to the order of a person connected with Sierra Leone," she said.

*The Independent* understands that four shipments of up to 120 tonnes of arms were sent to President Kabbah in Conakry, Guinea, and in Freetown.

The conference was held in October at the Royal Overseas League, a private club in central London. Among topics for discussion was the planned imposition of sanctions against the rebel regime, headed by Major Johnny Paul Koroma.

The conference programme noted: "The coup has had serious negative consequences for the country and the livelihood of its citizens. It has regrettably reversed the gains in economic and social reforms, disrupted economic activities and weakened investor and business confidence."

The conference outlined the programme that the Kabbah government would implement within its first 90 days of its restoration and the need for an international peace-keeping force. But exactly how Mr Kabbah was to be restored to power was less explicit. "Everyone knew this was a sensitive issue," said one delegate who attended. "It was something that was whispered about around the edges rather than something that was said in the open."

## India explodes three nuclear bombs

By Steve Crawshaw

INDIA yesterday defied world opinion and stoked regional tensions by conducting three underground nuclear explosions—the first for 24 years. The news of the explosions stoked tensions with neighbouring Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India in the past 50 years.

Pakistan accused India of sucking it into "a nuclear arms race". The Pakistani foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, called for international condemnation and sanctions: "They are more or less trying to say 'hell with you'."

US officials declared themselves "stunned" by the news, and talked of possible sanctions.

Britain and the European Union seemed more hesitant and confused. After five hours of "no comment", Britain last night issued a statement on behalf of the European Union which talked of European "dismay". Both India and Pakistan have refused to sign up for the international ban on nuclear testing which was agreed by 149 countries in 1996. Yesterday's test included a thermonuclear device, far more sophisticated than the fission device included in India's previous nuclear test in 1974.

When the new Indian government, led by the nationalist BJP party, took over in March, it emphasised that it intended to "exercise the option" to introduce nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons a world issue again, page 10

## Rail companies are fined £4m over late trains

By Louise Jury

RAIL companies have been fined £4m for running trains which were late or too few carriages, according to figures published yesterday. The latest Office of Passenger Rail Franchising bulletin showed punctuality worsened on 35 routes and improved on only 17 in the past 12 months.

John O'Brien, the franchising director, warned train operators that some needed to "dramatically improve" their punctuality and reliability figures, which were "unsatisfactory" and had declined since last year. "Passengers have a right to expect performance to improve year-on-year. Instead, punctuality generally, although

still better than in 1995/96, has slipped back from the improvements achieved during 1996/97—I now urge the industry to ... bring about sustained improvement ... across the whole network."

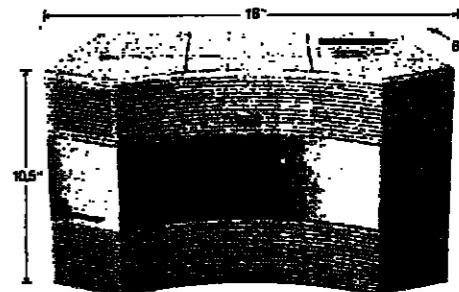
The worst performers on punctuality were Virgin's West Coast services in Scotland, where 69.5 per cent of services were on time, although the company's much-criticised English operations improved.

Also singled out for running too many late trains were Great Western and Thames. Some of the blame was laid at the door of Railtrack, which instituted speed restrictions while repairing track.

A Great Western spokeswoman said: "There have been punctuality generally, although

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# Labour still facing revolt over Murdoch's power

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

MARGARET BECKETT last night was facing Labour backbench unrest about the power of Rupert Murdoch over the British press, in spite of vigorous lobbying led by Tony Blair to head-off a revolt on the second reading of the Government's Competition Bill.

The President of the Board of Trade met a group of more

than 20 Labour MPs before last night's vote to persuade them that the Bill and European case law was sufficient to deal with predatory pricing by Mr Murdoch's News International group, owners of the *Times* and *Sunday Times*; and Tony Blair held private meetings with some backbench critics to reinforce her assurances.

But fears were not allayed when Mrs Beckett announced she would be seeking to throw out from the Bill an amendment

made in the Lords by Lord McNally, the Liberal Democrat peer, with the support of Labour peers, to outlaw the abuse of a dominant position by a national newspaper.

Mrs Beckett was effectively served notice by senior Labour backbench MPs that there could be a rebellion during the Bill's later stages in the Commons, unless it is strengthened.

Chris Mullin, the Labour chairman of the Commons

Home Affairs select committee, said: "We aren't talking about interfering in the free market. We are talking about subverting of the free market." He said predatory pricing had taken £100 million in profit out of the broadsheet market.

Calling for a separate media Bill, Clive Soley, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said: "I have no doubt we need a mechanism for taking tougher action when there is

predatory pricing."

David Winnick, a veteran Labour MP, said: "What is really required is effective legislation. The situation whereby the *Times* deliberately undercutting other newspapers to drive them out of business is totally undesirable."

The argument centres on Mrs Beckett's assurances that a European court judgement, known as the Tetra Pak case, established that predatory pricing

would be illegal. Mrs Beckett said that the European Court of Justice ruled in that case that if prices were shown to be below the average variable cost of production, predatory pricing should be banned.

"Even if prices are above average variable costs but still below total average costs, conduct is to be regarded as predatory if it can be established that the purpose of that conduct is to eliminate a competitor," she

told MPs. A leading Labour pro-European, Giles Radice, Labour chairman of the Commons Treasury committee, said the law set out in that case "was quite tough" and would catch News International. "We should look carefully at Mrs Beckett's statement. I intend to get legal advice on it... I want to consider what happens in committee and I want to decide then what happens at the report stage."

But David Chidgey, the Lib-

eral Democrat spokesman, said he had received legal advice that the Tetra Pak case could only apply to newspapers which had already established a dominant position - 40 per cent of the market or as low as 20 per cent depending on the nature of the market.

He said it would not apply to newspapers, such as the *Times*, which he said had a six per cent share; before they reached a dominant position.

## TOMORROW

■ OLD MASTER CLASS:  
Tom Lubbock on  
Dutch Art at the  
National  
Visual Arts, The Eye

■ SIXTIES SURVIVOR:  
Country Joe comes back  
to town  
The Eye, page 4

■ PLEATS PLEASE:  
Why that old  
school skirt is  
the height of  
fashion

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Recycled paper made up  
41.4% of the raw material for  
UK newspapers in the  
first half of 1997.

## Paedophiles use e-mail to lure children

By Ian Burrell  
Home Affairs Correspondent

PAEDOPHILES are using e-mail to engage schoolchildren in pornographic conversations, a chief constable told an international conference of police chiefs yesterday.

Teachers said they had also identified the development, which comes before government plans to give every schoolchild in the country an e-mail address. The Chief Constable of the Fife Constabulary, John Hamilton, told delegates at the 15th European Policing Executive Conference in Aberdeen that paedophiles were using e-mail to access potential victims and encourage them to exchange salacious information.

"It is unwise to leave children unsupervised if they have access to e-mail chat lines," Mr Hamilton said many offenders indulged in a practice known as "spoofing", which involved adults posing as teenagers to win the confidence of youngsters before encouraging them to swap pornographic conversations and images. "Spoofing" made it difficult to trace offenders.

Mr Hamilton said this form of computer crime was merely the tip of the iceberg of the deluge of internet crime which the world would face by 2000.

The Easter conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers heard that a group of schoolchildren in Sheffield were bombarded with messages by a paedophile gang after being given e-mail.

Fortunately, the youngsters

were sixth-formers and reported the problem.

The ATL said that it commissioned a survey of 4,000 children aged 11 to 16 and found that two-thirds of youngsters wished to have their own e-mail address.

Many children believed that staff could teach them nothing about computers. Some 40 per cent said they were more computer literate than their teachers and 31 per cent said they were more adept on the internet than staff.

The association now offers Cyber Patrol software to its members as a benefit, in order to place a filter on the internet sites to which children can gain access. Richard Margrave, of the ATL, said: "The union is increasingly worried that pupils can access pornographic and racist material."

According to Mr Hamilton, internet crime will be the biggest single challenge to law enforcement in the millennium. He said it was a global problem which required police forces across the world to recruit experts in the field or undertake dramatic retraining.

Mr Hamilton also appealed to parents to play their part in protecting youngsters who used the Internet. Delegates heard how, in a US study, 450,000 pornographic images were found to exist on bulletin boards. Computer crime was difficult to police because of the speed with which it was growing and the ingenious ways of offenders were finding to cover their tracks.

TENS OF thousands of investors who were denied the chance to buy shares in Thomson Travel Group due to administrative problems with its flotation missed out on a profit of up to £121 each as the shares soared on their first day on the stock market yesterday. Shares in the United Kingdom's largest tour operator leapt to 211p in early trading, representing a 24 per cent premium to the 170p flotation price which was itself at the upper end of the range the company had set for investors. The shares closed at 193.5p yesterday, valuing Thomson at £1.9bn.

Angry investors who were denied shares are now calling

for compensation from the share shops who were responsible for delays in registering potential investors and sending out application forms.

Thousands of investors who registered for shares well in advance of the flotation closing date last Thursday failed to receive shares. They will get 294 shares each worth £500 at the flotation price.

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The flotation was so popular that Thomson had to in-

crease the number of shares allotted to the public from the 10 per cent originally planned to 17 per cent. Even then the offer was subscribed many times over by private investors.

Official trading in Thomson will start next Monday when private investors' share certificates are issued.

SFA to investigate share shops, page 19

## Thomson investors make big gain in first day

By Andrew Yates

WILLIAM HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

WILLIAM H

# Ferocious winds are howling; our base camp is destroyed. Will this be farewell to Everest?



STEPHEN GOODWIN  
**Everest Diary**  
Base Camp

THERE WAS a sound like the roar of a fleet of 747 jets overhead as great plumes of snow and vapour flew from the west shoulder of Everest.

Ferocious winds whipped down Everest's Western Cwm last night and this morning, demolishing nearly all our Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions tents and many of those of other teams. Our advanced base camp has been destroyed.

Fortunately no lives have been reported lost, though for a while we feared one of our Sherpas had suffered a frostbitten hand as two of them tattered through the Cwm.

The scene at Base Camp around breakfast was reminiscent of photographs of wives at pithead gates after mining disasters. Groups of Sherpas and climbers clustered near their mess tents gazing up towards the head of the Khumbu Icefall and the entrance to the Cwm.

Out of the Cwm itself, snow billowed in whirlwinds, snaking down the upper icefield.

Our own camp was unoccupied – but with the likelihood of vital equipment scattered by the wind, a question mark hangs over any summit bid.

Gear, missing or otherwise, was not our first thought this morning. Nima Dorjee and Pemba Tsering, two of our most experienced Sherpas, left before dawn with a colleague, "Big" Dorjee, from an American team to try and reach Camp 2 to assess storm damage. They were somewhere in the maelstrom of blowing snow we could see hundreds of metres above us.

In addition, a handful of Sherpas based at Camp 2 for others in the international circus of teams were hanging on in a large dome tent, trying to keep it from collapsing despite two broken poles.

Strangely, though the mouth of the Cwm is only 600 metres above Base Camp, we stood watching in relative calm and sunshine. However, there was no mistaking the menace of the wind's roar and the concern of the Sherpas, who on any other slack morning would have turned to playing cards and laughter.

The timing of the blast is sobering. It is pretty well two years to the day since nine climbers died when similar fierce winds caught them out above the South Col.

As the sunshine gave way to steady snowfall, most of the day was spent criss-crossing between camps



Winds whipping snow off the upper reaches of Everest during the storm. Below: Nima Tserpa trying to make contact with Camp 2. Photographs: Stephen Goodwin and Jim Williams, using Fuji DS-300 digital cameras

of different nationalities piecing together information. Shyam Prasad Pun, Camp 2 cook with the US team of disabled climber Tom Whittaker, had watched sleeping bags and bits of tents hurtling down the Cwm, some of them maybe our own.

Tents belonging to the Iranian team also took to the air like magic carpets – unbeknown to their owners who, tired of hanging around Base Camp for a weather window, had gone down the valley to Namche for a rest.

Nima and Pemba reached Camp 2 at about 11 am, did what they could to secure the wreckage and then set off back. It was a vain effort. In white-out conditions and unable to see their way in the heavily crevassed Cwm

they were forced to turn back and take refuge with Shyam and the others in Whittaker's battered dome tent. With only patchy radio contact, it was feared for a while that Nima had a frost-bitten hand. Later, after apparently plunging his hands in warm water, we heard he had regained the use of his hand, but only time will reveal the extent of his injury.

Their damage report on the camp was less encouraging: the cook tent had been blown away, three of the five team-member tents were flattened with gear still inside them and the other two are missing, as are all three tents used by the Sherpas.

Until we know what has been lost and what can be salvaged, it is im-

possible to know whether we are still able to mount a summit bid if the weather improves. All our down-jackets, salopettes, and other high altitude gear was in the tents.

As for the effect of the wild weather on our higher camps, with luck our four tents at Camp 3 at 7,200m on the Lhotse Face will have been buried by snow and can simply be dug out. The one tent that our Sherpas erected at the South Col could well be history, though the oxygen bottles and other gear should still be retrievable.

With a bit of luck, the wind will have eased sufficiently tomorrow for Sherpas, and possibly some team members, to go up the Icefall and go into the Cwm to start the salvage op-

eration. It is expected to be a combined effort by most of the international teams here – the disaster having hit everyone.

Meanwhile in Base Camp, climbers will again be engaged in the frustrating business of trying to interpret weather forecasts and guess the movement of the jet stream, at the moment blowing directly over Everest.

It is a change in the track of these high-altitude winds that creates the calmer weather window climbers try to exploit each spring. But over the past week we have watched plumes of cloud rushing across the mountain tops at speeds of up to 100mph, and more are forecast.

David Callaway, our New York



A full collection of Stephen Goodwin's Everest diaries, with photographs can be found on The Independent's web site – [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

## 'Voice of Swimming' sacked over bribes

By Linus Grigoridis

HAMILTON Bland, the so-called "Voice of Swimming", was sacked by both the BBC and the Amateur Swimming Association yesterday for bringing the sport into disrepute after an inquiry found he had taken bribes from pool manufacturers.

Mr Bland, the swimming body's facilities consultant, took "secret commissions" from manufacturers while giving advice to councils about new pools, according to an inde-

pendent inquiry carried out by solicitors' firm, Herbert Smith.

David Sparkes, the ASA's chief executive, said yesterday that the findings of the report would be handed over to the police.

He said: "As ASA facilities consultant, Hamilton Bland was in a position of trust and influence, a position which he has clearly abused. Mr Bland has betrayed the trust that both we and our partners put in him. We had no alternative but to relieve him of all duties with the ASA."

The report was ordered by the ASA last July after investigations by *World in Action* and a national newspaper showed that the former Olympic coach had made a fortune from the sport.

The BBC, who have used Mr Bland as a commentator since 1975, said in a statement yesterday that it would be "inappropriate" to continue to employ him.

Mr Bland, who lives in a mansion in Warwickshire, reached an agreement with Han Mooyer, the owner of a company called Poly Pool Floors Limited (PPF) specialising in moveable floors for swimming pools, according to the inquiry.

The report concludes: "There is no difference in law between a secret commission and a bribe. The evidence is incontrovertible, therefore, that Mr Bland took a number of bribes from Mr Mooyer in exchange for promoting or recommending PPF's floors."

The inquiry, carried out by Mark Gay, a partner at the law firm who specialised in sport, cleared Mr Bland of any wrongdoing in his roles as promoter of ASA awards, and as

"There is no doubt that as a direct result of Mr Bland's activities the ASA's reputation has suffered, particularly with local authorities and the Sports Council. Clearly there are some bridges to be built and we are working towards restoring confidence in the ASA."

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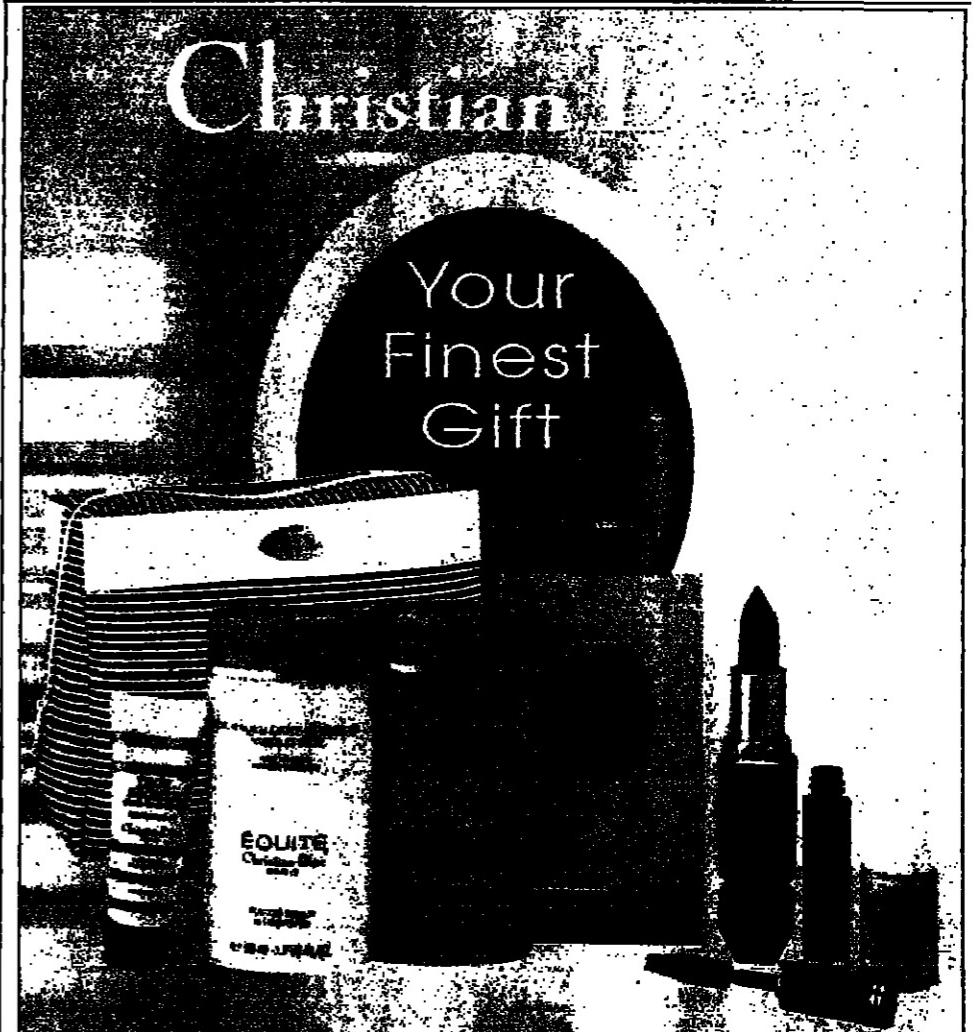
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Hamilton Bland, 'the voice of swimming', with a group of young enthusiasts. Photograph: Birmingham Post



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# Trapped cat burglar admits Picasso plot



Scott, who claimed in court that he had retired from crime 10 years ago to become a celebrity tennis coach

By Louise Jury

A CELEBRATED cat burglar who claimed to have renounced his life of crime yesterday admitted his role in a plot to sell a stolen £650,000 Picasso.

As a jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court in east London was about to retire to consider its verdict, Peter Scott, 67, changed his plea to guilty to conspiring to handle the painting, *Tête de Femme*, stolen in a daring raid at gunpoint on a gallery last year.

Scott was granted bail until sentencing by Judge Andrew Brooks who warned him: "This is an extremely grave and serious matter which attracts a substantial term of imprisonment." Speaking outside the court after yesterday's five-minute hearing, Scott said that he was a "victim of circumstance".

Scott was the author of a book, *Gentleman Thief - Recollections of a Cat Burglar*, which recounted his 30-year career of thefts from stars including Sophia Loren and Elizabeth



Picasso's *Tête de Femme*, stolen at gunpoint in London last year

Taylor. But during the five-day court hearing, he insisted he had "retired" from crime 10 years ago to become a celebrity tennis coach.

He claimed he had been an innocent go-between in a private deal arranged by Ronald Spring, a 70-year-old business accomplice, and another friend who was the man who robbed the Lefevre Gallery in Mayfair in March last year.

Scott changed his original not guilty plea after the jury heard that he met the robber, who cannot be named for legal reasons, shortly after the raid and passed the work to Ronald Spring.

He had earlier told the court that he had known the raider for a number of years and regarded him as a "surrogate son". He said that anything he had done had been out of loyalty," he added.

However, Ronald Spring, who earlier admitted handling the Picasso and agreed to give evidence against Scott, said that Scott had handed him a suitcase containing the stolen painting on the evening of the raid and demanded money. Spring, a former legal executive who is also awaiting sentencing, said: "He told me he wanted between £70,000 and £75,000 within seven days."

Scott was then caught in a sting operation by undercover detectives a week after the theft. Officers moved in to arrest him as he walked away from a rendezvous with Spring at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in London's Baker Street. Although he told the court he was not interested in any money from the deal, he was holding a plastic carrier bag of cash and smiling to himself.

After the hearing, Scott said the weight of evidence against him had forced him to change his plea. "I was intellectually and morally convinced that after the prosecution's very skilful cross-examination, I could not continue to sustain this not guilty plea without jeopardising my 10 years of honesty, decency and hard work."

Detective Constable Andrew Kennedy, of the National Crime Squad, said he thought that Scott was driven by publicity. "I think he revels in infamy. He's a likeable rogue, but having said that he is still someone who has committed a series of very serious crimes throughout his life."

## Five summoned to appear before Lawrence inquiry

THE five men named in connection with the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence have been issued with summonses ordering them to attend the public inquiry being held into his death, a spokesman for the inquiry said. "There has been no indication that they will not attend," he added.

Michael Holmes, the lawyer for one of the five, Gary Dobson, 22, said he would attend the hearing. "If he gets a summons he has no option. If he did not he would be in contempt." Mr Dobson, Neil Acourt, also 22, and Luke Knight, 20, were cleared of Stephen's murder at the Old Bailey in 1996 after a private prosecution brought by the Lawrence family collapsed. David Norris and Jamie Acourt, both 21, were charged with the killing but the cases were thrown out at committal stage.

The documents order the five men to appear at the tribunal in south London on 8 June, but the inquiry spokesman said this was the earliest date at which they could be required. Failure to attend or give evidence could lead to a witness being jailed for up to six months and fined up to £1,000.

## Driver 'fine' after lorry terror

A POLICE report on the motorway incident in which a lorry driver guided his vehicle through traffic at 70mph after the accelerator jammed was submitted to the Department of Transport's Vehicle Inspectorate yesterday.

Five police cars and a helicopter cleared the route ahead after the driver, Michael Rayner, 26, alerted them to his predicament by mobile phone at about 11am on Sunday. Mr Rayner escaped unhurt after bringing the vehicle to halt by switching off the engine and steering into a crash barrier on the M1 just outside London.

The Scania P124 lorry, registered in January 1998, was contracted to waste management firm Polkacrest of Wrotham, Kent. A company spokesman said: "Everyone is relieved that what could have been a nasty incident ended safely. Mr Rayner is fine, but totally overwhelmed by all the interest in the story. He has gone away for a couple of days to recuperate."

## 'Misogynist' council claim

A COUNCIL solicitor was groped by a senior official after he had too much to drink, it was claimed at an industrial tribunal in north London yesterday.

Amanda Kelly, 41, said the man - who cannot be named for legal reasons - accosted her at a hotel where a meeting was being held for the directors of Cudon Council, north London. She said she complained after the incident in July 1994, but was sworn to secrecy by the then chief personnel. Ms Kelly, now the council's deputy chief executive, is claiming sexual discrimination against the chief executive, Steve Bundred, 46. She says the council had a "misogynistic" atmosphere. The council and Mr Bundred deny the allegations. The hearing continues today.

## BA seeks to foil easyJet

BRITISH Airways yesterday moved to block a court action by low-cost airline easyJet which opposes BA's entry into the no-frills European market. EasyJet, operating out of Luton airport, has issued High Court proceedings seeking injunctions to prevent BA "illegally cross-subsidising" its new low-fare subsidiary, Go, which plans to start services later this month from Stansted. But BA has asked a Commercial Court judge to "strike out" easyJet's claim as "unsustainable in law and disclosing no cause of action". The hearing is expected to last three days.

## Doctor on murder charge

THE hospital anaesthetist, Thomas Shanks, 47, was remanded in custody when he appeared in court yesterday charged with the murder of Vicki Fletcher. The doctor is accused of killing the 21-year-old nurse outside a public house, in Castleford, West Yorkshire, last Thursday night.

## The best help for students

The Independent is the top source of information about university course places, according to a Universities and Colleges Admissions Service survey of undergraduates. Sixty-three per cent of applicants used the listings published in the paper.

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## Detective's sex session 'captured on tape'

By Steve Boggan

A DETECTIVE who has been suspended on full pay for more than three years was taped by colleagues allegedly having sex with a police witness without her consent.

The Independent has obtained a transcript of the officer apparently having sex with the woman, in which she says "no" or rejects his advances on 17 occasions.

The transcript forms part of an investigation into 34 allegations made against the former South East Regional Crime Squad officer by the witness, most seriously that he repeatedly had unlawful sexual intercourse with her between May 1993 and August 1994 at two "safe houses" in Essex.

As The Independent reported two weeks ago, the officer has been receiving a salary of about £30,000 a year since his suspension in late 1994, but no decision has yet been taken by the Metropolitan Police on whether he should be disciplined.

In a statement given by the witness to Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau in September 1994, she details the growth of a highly unprofessional relationship which started with the detective's involvement in the arrest of drug suspects linked to her, and progressed into him having sex with her, allegedly sharing her reward money and even allegedly supplying her with drugs.

The Crown Prosecution Service regarded the woman, a former drug addict, as too unreliable a witness to allow criminal proceedings against the officer. It is understood the Police Complaints Authority made

a recommendation as to his future a year ago, but he has remained suspended on full pay.

Other allegations being investigated by the CIB are that the officer "dishonestly appropriated 4 kilos of heroin from a total quantity of 40 kilos that were seized"; that in March 1994, he "unlawfully supplied the complainant with a firearm and a case of bullets"; and that he "unlawfully supplied the complainant with dangerous drugs", cannabis, LSD and ecstasy.

The witness also claims the officer stole money from her, told her what to say in a witness statement in a bid to prevent the course of justice, tapped her phone, dishonestly handled £25,000 and failed to act on information about other crimes.

In her statement the witness, a mother of two, indicates that sex with the married officer took place many times but by the time their relationship ended, she said she no longer wanted to have sex with him.

Before the last session was recorded, she appears to have been primed to use key words. For example, in one instance, she says: "I don't want sex [Officer's name] you're penetrating me." He replies: "That's it, yeah." Again, apparently for the benefit of the microphones, she says: "[Name] you're pulling my drawers down ... why, I don't want it. Please put them back on." He replies: "No."

The tape's value as a piece of criminal evidence is debatable as it features a woman who has consented to be recorded in advance of supposedly being forced to have sex. However, as a piece of evidence for disciplinary purposes, it may be potentially valuable.

## Ministers act to cut school exclusions

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

MINISTERS yesterday promised to stop schools excluding too many pupils as they produced a new report showing big variations in exclusion rates.

Just one-quarter of secondary schools are responsible for two-thirds of permanent exclusions and one-quarter do not exclude any pupils. Last year, the exclusion rate in Hammersmith and Fulham, in west London, was four times that of Newham in east London and more than six times that of Oxfordshire.

The report from the Prime Minister's Social Exclusion Unit wants to reduce exclusions by encouraging schools to intervene earlier to cope with unruly pupils. It says:

■ Inspectors should be sent to schools which exclude the most pupils.  
■ League tables should show how many pupils each secondary school excludes permanently.  
■ Schools should introduce "sanctuaries" where disruptive pupils can cool off.

The report says that some pupils are being excluded for wearing nose studs or trousers not bought from an approved supplier. There is anecdotal evidence that schools are excluding difficult children so poor results do not affect their position in examination league tables.

"Exclusions have risen four-

fold since 1990. Last year about 13,000 pupils were permanently excluded. The report also aims to cut truancy from the Government's estimated figure of one million children each year - out of around 7.5 million pupils.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said: "By reducing the levels of truancy and school exclusions we will effectively cut off one of the main supply routes to welfare dependency, joblessness and criminal behaviour."

For the first time, pupils who are permanently excluded will have the right to full-time education either in a "sin-bin" or pupil referral unit or at another school. Some receive only three or four hours tuition a week.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, is hoping to receive money for the changes from the Government's comprehensive spending review due to report in July so that they can start to introduce the new arrangements from next year. Costs in pupil referral units are four times as high as those in ordinary schools.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Setting artificial targets for the reduction of truancy and exclusions will not, of itself, achieve anything unless heads are given the support they need to deal effectively with those pupils who ruin the education of their fellow pupils."

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## Mother battles the blight of Millennium Dome building work

By Clare Garner



Replied: Caroline Rushton with her daughter Bertha (above) can stay in their cottage until the appeal

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

MANY people hate the Millennium Dome but Caroline Rushton has more reason than most. Since building work began, she has been condemned to live in a contaminated dust bath, with rats in the garden and drilling at dawn. While her neighbours have been rehoused, she claims she has not been offered suitable alternative accommodation.

"Look at that dome causing all this trouble. All the muck and all the noise," Ms Rushton said, trying to soothe her 22-month-old daughter, Bertha. Six months pregnant with her second child, Ms Rushton, 33, a single mother, is at her wits end "struggling to keep it together".

Yesterday she made a successful plea at the Court of Appeal against a possession order which would have left her homeless. She has been given security to stay in the 19th-century gas worker's cottage overlooking the dome development in Greenwich, south-east London, until the appeal is heard.

A spokesman for London and Quadrant Housing Trust, which until recently leased the house from English Partnerships, said they had offered Ms Rushton other homes and the local council had agreed to rehouse her, but that she had declined to contact the council and refused their offers.

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## No surrender – Paisley's fire and brimstone gospel

Defender of loyalist 'faith' rages against papist conspiracy.  
Kim Sengupta reports

THE NOISE at the ultra-loyalist rally at Moigashel in Co Tyrone was deafeningly loud, repetitive and insistent. There was also a booming lambeg drum, traditionally used in Orange parades – but it was no match for the Rev Ian Paisley.

To his critics Mr Paisley, fiery preacher, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and standard bearer of the 'no' campaign against the Stormont agreement, symbolises the historical intransigence of Ulster Protestantism.

According to the polls, Mr Paisley has become a catalyst in the referendum campaign. He is entrenching the views of some loyalists who fear betrayal and slide towards united Ireland, but there are also those who are being driven into the 'yes' camp by what they see as his negativity and demagogery.

The Government and the Ulster Unionist Party plan to capitalise on this in the run-up to polling day on 22 May. But Northern Ireland observers point out that Mr Paisley's involvement and influence in the province's politics is as long-standing as the conflict itself, and you write him off at your peril.

The 'Big Man', now aged 72, still has formidable pulling power. At the Moigashel rally, around 300 people



turned up to stand in the rain and hear his invective against the peace process, and his description of its backers as agents of the devil.

On the makeshift platform, Mr Paisley was surrounded by the leading figures of the 'no' campaign. In the wet night, under flickering street lights, the speeches were a mixture

of aggression and fatalism. Tony Blair, Bertie Ahern, and George Mitchell, who chaired the multi-party talks, had conspired to deliver free Ulster into a papist United Ireland, declared Mr Paisley. David Trimble and other pro-agreement Unionists were traitors who had been suborned by the British government.

Thumping his fist into his palm, almost straining out of his tightly-buttoned white ramcoat and tightly-knotted Union Jack tie, Dr Paisley raged: "They are liars. They have graduated from the devil's school."

"They have destroyed the act of the Union and given the title deeds

of Ulster to Dublin on a plate. These people have sold out Ulster. As for me, I would rather starve than take filthy British money."

The audience who blocked the town's main road included associates of the Loyalist Volunteer Force who went on a killing spree of Catholics after the assassination of their leader, Billy Wright, in the Maze prison.

Mr Paisley has publicly dissociated himself from them. But also present were many ordinary working-class and middle-class Protestants who seemed bewildered that their loyalty to the Union appears to have been flung in their faces.

The Rev Ian Paisley: "They have destroyed the act of the Union and given the title deeds of Ulster to Dublin on a plate"  
Photograph: Brian Harris

They fear they have been sacrificed for the sake of political expediency.

There were the standard attacks on Sinn Fein, the IRA and republicanism, but the real venom was directed at Unionists who are backing the peace accord.

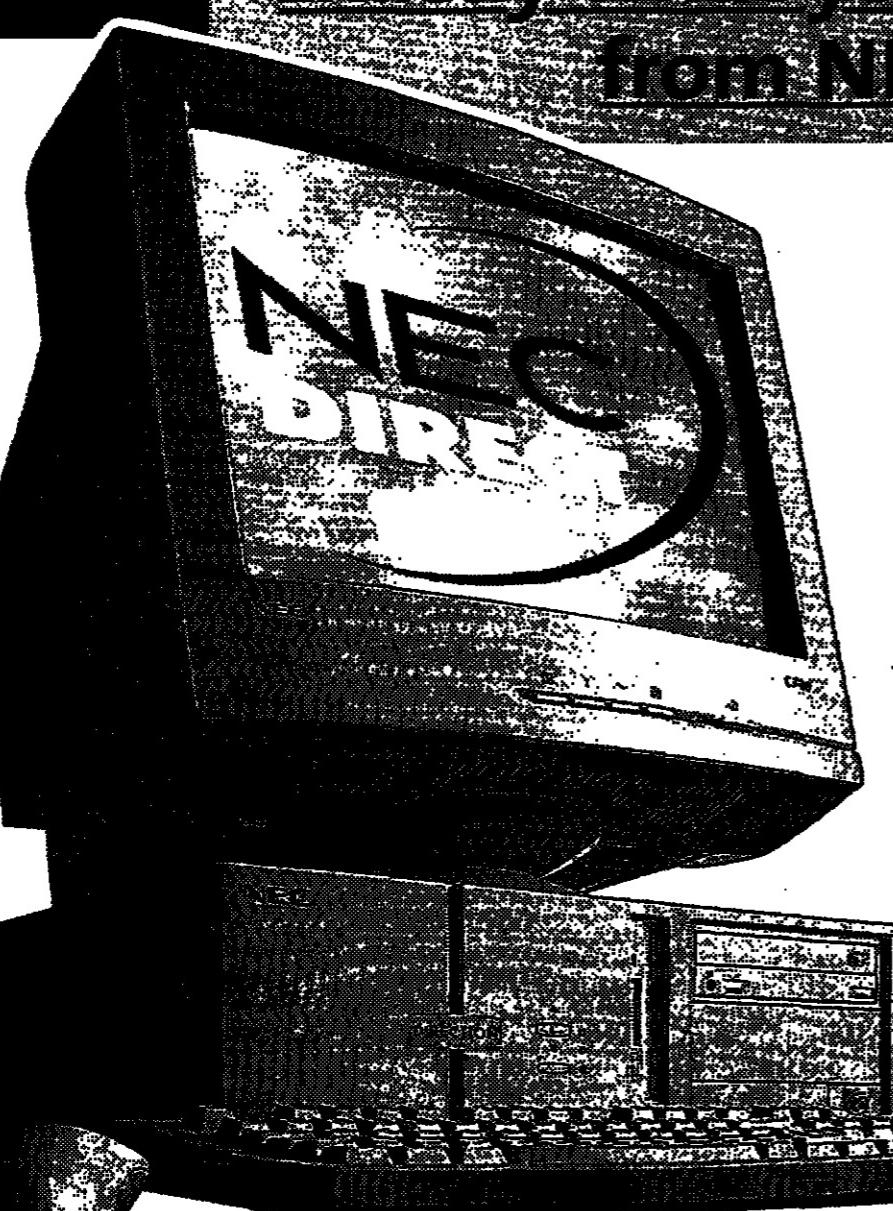
Posters depicted the alleged betrayal: "What's the difference between David Trimble and Wolfe Tone? – 200 years," said one. Leaflets were handed out by courteous shaven-headed young men describing David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party as "the IRA's secret weapon".

The peace process is expected to face its most serious threat in the coming loyalist marching season. To those present, it was their birthright to take part in these marches without interference from the Government or republicans. Mr Paisley made his contribution: "Some of us here will be back up Duncree and down again ... it's no, it's no and it's no surrender."

Afterwards in the local Orange Hall, a quieter and more subdued Dr Paisley, as if spent by his rage, answered questions from a group of journalists. He had nothing against Catholics, he stressed, but added there is a theological theory that the Pope "was the anti-Christ".

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## Blair spearheads drive for 'Yes' vote in Ulster

By David McKittrick  
Ireland Correspondent

A NUMBER of initiatives are being planned to boost the Yes campaign for the 22 May referendum amid concerns that opinion in the Protestant community has yet to swing decisively in favour of the Good Friday agreement.

Tony Blair will pay a second visit to Belfast later this week, while Chancellor Gordon Brown is planning a multi-million pound package aimed at creating employment in Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, in an independent initiative two Belfast Protestant ministers will today announce the names of 150 ministers and 100 lay leaders who are recommending a Yes vote. All have subscribed to a declaration which states: "Whilst there are parts of the agreement which are unclear or even unsatisfactory, we believe that the agreement offers an opportunity for a new beginning for our country."

It has become obvious that both northern and southern nationalists are virtually unanimous in their support for the

accord. But with less than two weeks to go to the vital referendum on the agreement, the signs are that Protestant and Unionist opinion is evenly balanced, with a great many still unsure of how to vote.

A phone-in programme in which Tony Blair answered questions on Belfast's DownTown Radio yesterday confirmed the sense of a high level of Unionist anxiety. The pattern of questions, apparently mainly from Protestant callers, reflected concerns about the sincerity of the republican movement's commitment to democracy, the early release of prisoners and the future of the RUC.

The Prime Minister said there was no plan to disband the RUC, assuring callers that prisoners would only be released from jails, on licence, if both the individuals and their organisation had given up violence.

He insisted there would be no fudging on the arms decommissioning issue, saying of the possibility of Sinn Fein taking office: "We can't have a situation where people who have not given up the path of violence

are taking office in the Northern Ireland government."

He also promised "an absolute and determined will on behalf of the Government to clean up whatever dissident or disparate splinter elements" there may be of these paramilitary organisations."

The triumphant welcome given to IRA prisoners, including members of the Balcombe Street gang, at Sinn Fein's weekend conference was seen as a setback to the Unionist Yes campaign.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble said: "The decision of the Secretary of State to release IRA terrorists so they could attend a meeting of Sinn Fein/IRA is going to have a negative impact. It ties in with a lot of similar actions in which she has shown considerable indulgence to republicans but considerable insensitivity towards Unionists."

Meanwhile, up to 400 prison officers staged demonstrations outside jails in Northern Ireland in protest against suggestions by the operational director of prison services, Martin Mogg, that some may be opposed to the agreement.

## MPs seek resignation of NHS trust chief

By Jeremy Lauance  
Health Editor

A GROUP of MPs yesterday demanded the removal of the chairman of a major London teaching hospital to set an example to the rest of the National Health Service that poor management will not be tolerated.

They said heads must be made to roll when managers fail to come up to scratch and called on Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, to accelerate the introduction of performance measures for NHS boards.

In a rare display of public anger directed at one individual that echoes Mr Dobson's own determination to hold public figures to account, the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration said Sir Ronald Mason, chairman of the University College London Hospitals Trust, should have resigned after the trust was severely criticised by the NHS ombudsman last year.

At one stage the ombudsman was conducting five

investigations into complaints against the trust without any noticeable impact on its management, the MPs say.

The principal case involved the daughter of a man who died who was not told of her father's deteriorating condition and subsequent death was not allowed to see his body for several hours after he died. After an investigation, the ombudsman found that the trust had shown a "disgraceful lack of sensitivity to a bereaved relative", failed to provide proper care, and failed to respond properly to complaints from her.

Sir Ronald, who chaired a committee dealing with complaints to the trust, told the MPs that there was nothing in the ombudsman's criticisms that made him doubt his own performance. Yesterday, the committee said his confidence was "completely unfounded" and invited Mr Dobson to remove him. "It is essential that NHS bodies are made properly accountable when they fail; if prompt action had been taken

in this case, we believe it would have sent a message to the NHS in general which would have had a galvanising effect across the institution."

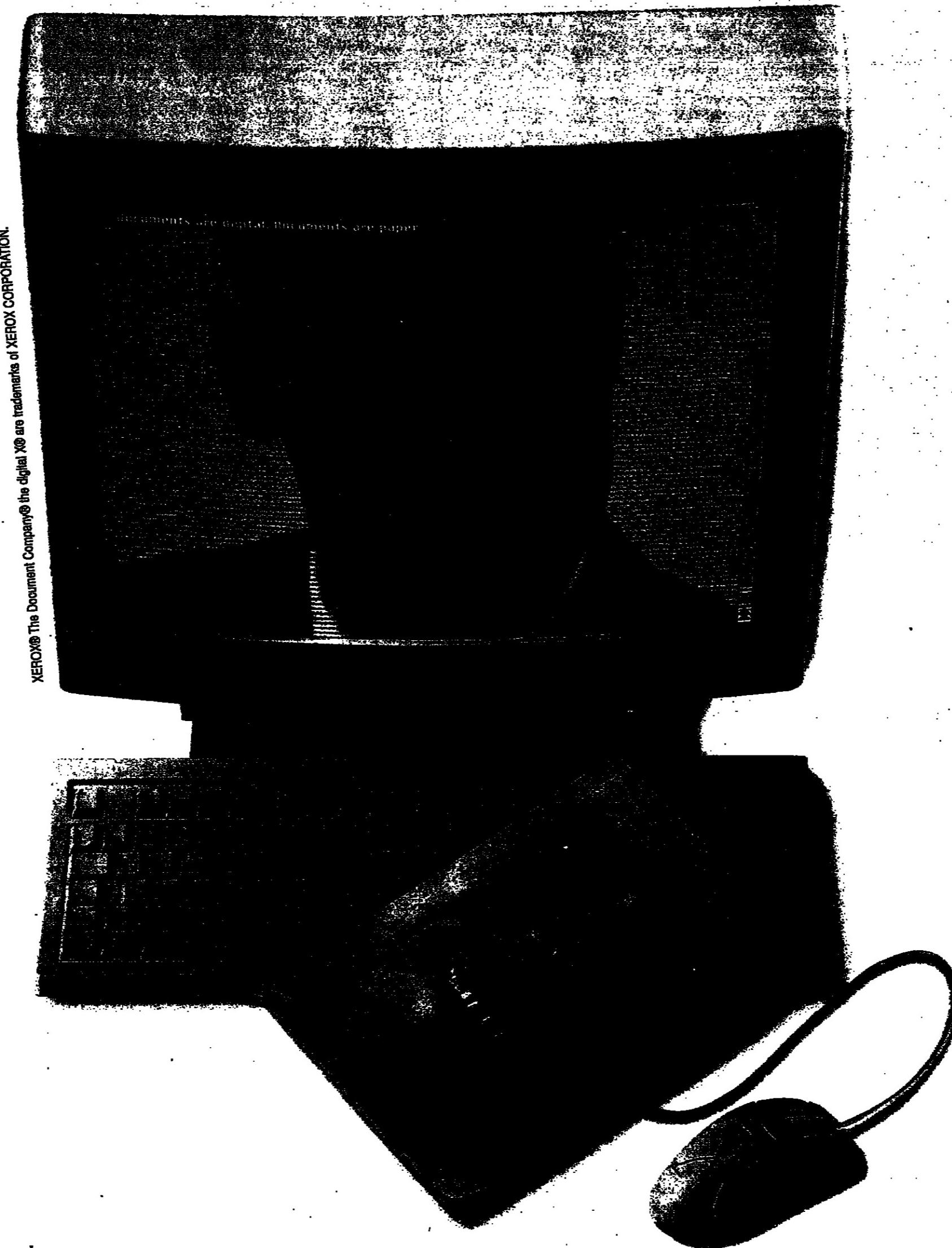
Charles Marshall, the chief executive of UCH at the time the events occurred in 1994-95 who was also criticised, left the trust last March.

Failings in eight NHS trusts and health authorities are highlighted in the committee's latest report into the work of the NHS Ombudsman for 1996-97. It says it is particularly concerned about managers who have failed to respond to earlier criticism and urges ministers to deal decisively with those responsible.

Last night Sir Ronald Mason said he saw nothing in the committee's report to cause him to resign. Referring to the case of the bereaved daughter, he said: "Whilst I deeply regret the failings ... we have made significant changes ensuring such problems are very unlikely to recur, as is evidenced by our performance over the past three years."



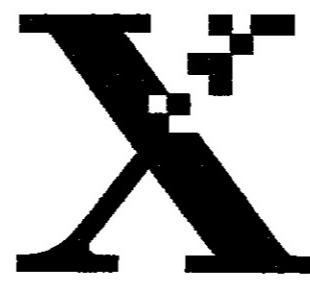
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ces:



The conductor Simone Young, taking a break during rehearsals for the Royal Opera production of *La Traviata* which opens tonight at the Royal Albert Hall, in London. Young, an Australian, became only the third woman to conduct for the Royal Opera when she made her debut with the company in 1994  
Photograph: Laurie Lewis

## Cerebral palsy man wins action

A MAN whose intelligence has been locked inside his useless body since his birth 25 years ago won a High Court negligence action against a health authority today.

Daniel Leech, of Badgeworth, Cheltenham, cannot speak, is wheelchair-bound and has no useful movements of his arms because of the cerebral palsy that developed after he was born at Cheltenham maternity hospital. His only means of communication is by a foot-operated computer and speech synthesiser.

But Mr Leech's high intelligence remains intact, his QC John Grace told Mr Justice Buckley in London:

The judge, ruling on liability, found that a breach of duty by Gloucestershire Health Authority was to blame for Mr Leech's plight. Severe oxygen starvation, which arose 15-20 minutes before Mr Leech's birth by Caesarean section, was caused by an "ill-advised" attempt at delivery by forceps after a labour that had run for too long.

Afterwards, a smiling Mr Leech, accompanied by his parents, Ian, 56, and Janet, 52, issued a statement saying that the three-and-a-half years of litigation had been a great strain.

"Hopefully, I can now live the rest of my life in as normal a way as possible," he said.

## Chris Evans wins vote for ministry of youth

CHRIS EVANS, the enfant terrible of British broadcasting, would make the best government minister for youth, according to a survey of young people.

The man fired as Radio 1's top DJ because he wanted Fridays off, narrowly pipped Richard Branson for the post in a poll conducted for the Industrial Society. The radio presenter Tim Vincent was the third most popular choice, followed by Prince William, Johnny Vaughan, presenter of *The Big Breakfast*, the Radio 1 DJ Zoe Ball, and the comedienne Dawn French.

A significant proportion of respondents voted for their fathers. The vote that swung it for

Leading article, page 16

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# Nurses worked illegally at high-security hospital

By Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

NURSES at a high-security hospital where some of Britain's most dangerous patients are housed have been working illegally, it was revealed yesterday.

As many as 16 nurses at the troubled Ashworth Special Hospital – at present the subject of a public inquiry – had failed to re-register with their regulating body, the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. Some patients at Ashworth – in Maghull, Merseyside – were also being detained illegally.

A spokesman for the council said the case was "potentially very dangerous" and a spokesman for the hospital said it was "serious" but that the situation had been remedied and all nurses were now registered.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the hospital said that patient care was not jeopardised by the

lapse, and that it involved a handful of nurses out of the 900 employed. However, one ward manager has since been demoted as a result of the discovery.

The spokesman said systems for detecting such failings were now in place and the public should be reassured that the problem had been addressed several months ago. "Patients are at minimum risk to themselves and no risk to the staff or the wider public."

A spokesman for the UK Central Council said: "Any nurses practising without effective registration are by definition not subject to the council's standards."

"There is an onus on the individual to make sure they are up to date with their registration but there is also an onus on the employers as well to ensure there is a system in place to ensure that staff are up to date."

Ashworth – whose most notorious patient is Ian Brady, the Moors Murderer – has been under scrutiny since January 1997 when the then Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, ordered an independent inquiry into the hospital over allegations involving pornography, drugs and paedophilia – particularly why a girl of eight was allegedly allowed to play with a sex offender.

The inquiry was told yesterday that Ashworth did not have a policy governing child visitors. Richard Backhouse, head of social work practices since February 1994, said the formulation of such a policy was "not high on people's agenda".

Mr Backhouse told the inquiry he was kept in the dark about the concerns of nurses on the personality disorder unit, and was unaware that one of his principal social workers had been commissioned to work on an investigation into the admittance of Child A on to the unit's Lawrence Ward.

What procedures were followed when Peter Hemming, a convicted paedophile, was allowed a home visit to the father of Child A, the young girl at the centre of the paedophile allegations within the hospital's personality disorder unit.

Referring to the vetting of visitors, Mr Backhouse said: "With hindsight I think we would have looked at it differently. At the time we were trying to put some structure into chaos."

"People were coming in who shouldn't have and people were being turned away who were perfectly safe."

Mr Backhouse told the inquiry he was kept in the dark about the concerns of nurses on the personality disorder unit, and was unaware that one of his principal social workers had been commissioned to work on an investigation into the admittance of Child A on to the unit's Lawrence Ward.

## Lecturers driven abroad by short research contracts

By Ben Russell  
Education Correspondent

SOME of Britain's brightest research brains may be forced abroad or out of universities altogether because they cannot get a permanent job, lecturers said yesterday.

Union leaders condemned vice-chancellors for putting four out of ten academics, including more than 450 university professors, on to temporary contracts.

They warned academics were being forced to "dumb down", sacrificing valuable long-term pure research for easy studies which could fit into a three-, six- or twelve-month contract.

In some cases research staff had been through as many as three contracts a year. The vast majority of staff on short-term contracts are researchers, where temporary appointments account for 95 per cent of staff.

But the latest available figures

show nearly one in five mainstream lecturers were temporary and six per cent of professors.

Universities argue temporary appointments give them flexi-

bility to deal with uncertain funding arrangements.

But David Triesman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "If you talk to researchers today it's quite different to five or ten years ago. Then they would have been bursting to talk to you about the breakthroughs they were making. Now they tell you how many weeks they have left on their contracts."

"It's harder and harder to keep really good research teams in UK research universities. There's a much clearer understanding in the States that research takes a long time."

He blamed short-term research funding and vice-chancellors' fear of budget cuts.

Amanda Hart, of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which represents staff in the new universities, said: "A lot of people are on one-year contracts and every year they have the uncertainty about whether their job is going to be renewed. They find they can't get mortgages and they can't get loans. Contracts also affect their work because people can't commit themselves to long-term plans like developing courses."

The Dearing report into higher education, published last year, also warned that increasing use of short-term contracts could hit the quality of courses and research.

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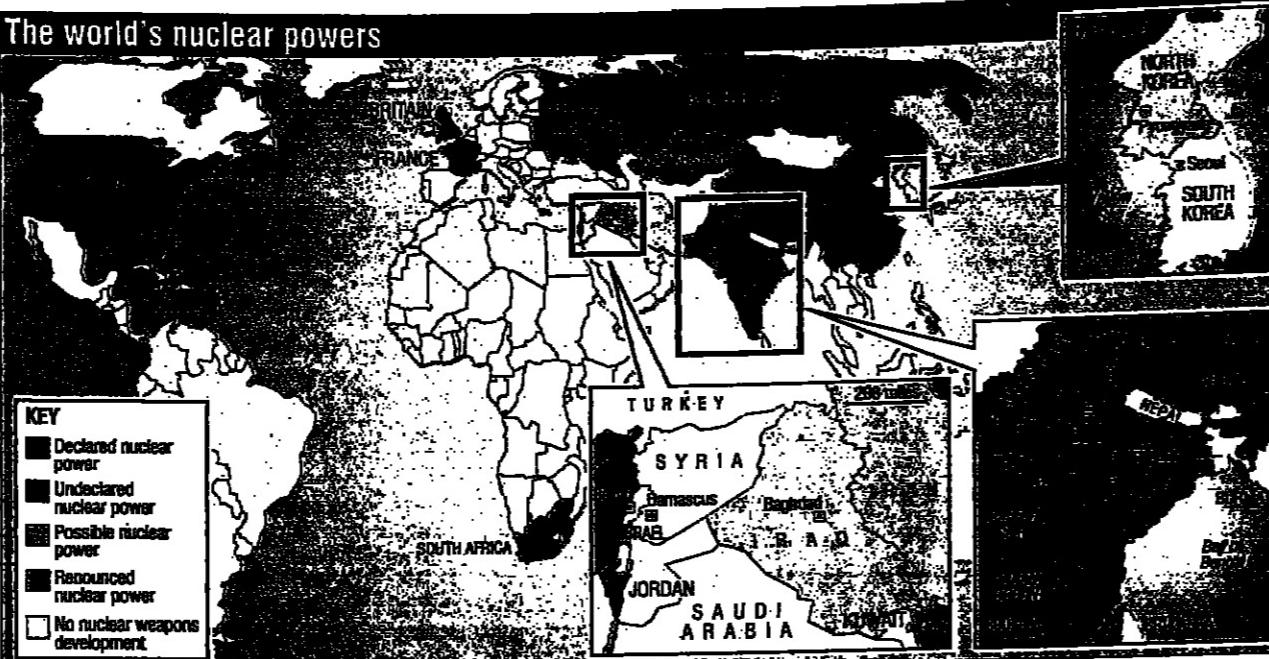
# Nuclear issue is back on the world agenda

By Rupert Cornwell

THE announcement yesterday by India's Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpeyi, that it conducted three nuclear tests is an abrupt and brutal reminder that, despite the end of the Cold War and the approval two years ago of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, nuclear weapons are very much alive, coveted

and dangerous. The immediate probable consequence of the decision will be to catapult the nuclear-testing issue right to the top of the agenda for this weekend's G8 summit in Birmingham.

Almost certainly too, it pushes back the day when the CTBT, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1996, becomes



fully operational. In the longer term, however, it could put pressure on the five acknowledged nuclear powers of Britain, France, Russia, the US and China, to rid themselves of the weapons entirely.

Although it has been signed by 149 countries, and ratified by 13 including Britain and France last month, the treaty will not "enter into force" — to use the

official jargon — until it has been ratified by all 44 countries which possess nuclear weapons or nuclear reactors which could be used to build such weapons.

But North Korea, Pakistan

and India — which has de-

scribed the CTBT as "a charade"

because the five acknowledged powers were not giving up their weapons — have refused to sign it. Thus two

of the three "threshold nuclear" powers, assumed to have nuclear weapons or be capable of assembling one at short notice, have refused to sign, while the third, Israel, (which has signed) is believed to possess between 100 and 200 warheads.

As for North Korea's pro-

gramme, its stage of develop-

ment is unclear, but urgent

US-led efforts are under way to

contain it, bargaining economic aid for public scrutiny of North Korean installations.

No such leverage is available with India, whose ruling BJP Hindu nationalist party fought the March election on a specific platform of keeping the nuclear option open.

Neither remark suggests that India will meekly follow the example of France, which signed the CTBT after President Jacques Chirac in 1995 and 1996 carried out a bitterly contested "final" series of tests at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific. Nor does India's long-standing vow not to commit itself to ending nuclear tests while Pakistan retains the technology to build a nuclear weapon leave much room for manoeuvre.

Above all though, the timing of the announcement underlines the assertiveness of the nationalist-led government. It has acted in the full awareness that the tests will undermine the campaign of the world's second most populous country for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

It has chosen a moment just a few months ahead of an important visit to Delhi by President Bill Clinton, designed to inject warmth into long cool relations between Washington and the regional superpower of South Asia.

Given the current US pre-occupation with nuclear proliferation, the White House reaction of "deep disappointment" was utterly predictable.

Indeed, Mr Clinton may now prefer to put the trip off entirely.

Delhi's intransigence leaves

the international community with few options. Economic sanctions are one possibility,

and theoretically could be trig-

gered by recent congressional legislation, which gives Mr Clinton 30 days to impose them against a country which con-

ducts a nuclear test. The White

House last night was not tipping

its hand, but sanctions in any

case could be imposed at a CTBT review conference in 1999. Experts doubt they would have much effect.

The real worry is that Pak-

istan might retaliate by carry-

ing out a test of its own — or,

worst of all, that China, which

has signed up, would resume

testing. Such a step would prob-

ably wreck the treaty, and turn

the much-feared nuclear esca-

lation in Asia into fact.

India's move is a direct re-

sponse to Pakistan's recent

testing of a surface-to-surface

missile able to carry a nuclear

warhead and hit targets 1,000

miles away.

Not that the CTBT is en-

tiably toothless. Whatever hap-

pens, it will establish a world-

wide system of monitoring sta-

tions employing hydro-acoustic,

seismological and radiation-

sensing equipment able to pick

up a nuclear explosion of one

kiloton or more anywhere in the

world.

But India's provocative tim-

ing may have been quite delib-

erate. Its main motive for

retaining the nuclear option is

the belief it will ensure securi-

ty against two traditionally hos-

tile neighbours to the

north-west and north-east.

But, as Dan Plesch of the

disarmament group Basic con-

tends, "the condemnation of

the established nuclear powers

only exposes the basic hypocrisy

of the Big Five — of us saying

to other countries 'Do as we say,

not as we do.'

Five weeks ago Robin Cook

, the Foreign Secretary, hailed

Britain's ratification of CTBT

as proof of its "commitment to

the goal of a nuclear-free world."

In reality, however, Britain's

nuclear deterrent was excluded

from consideration at last year's

strategic defence review initi-

ated by the incoming Labour

government. Hence India's ar-

gument that until existing nu-

clear weapons powers renounce

them, they have no moral right

to insist other countries do not

seek to acquire them.

## Worn wires found in Boeing fuel lines

ABOUT half the older Boeing 737 aircraft inspected for wiring damage under an emergency order by the United States Federal Aviation Administration have noticeable wear and tear, FAA administrator Jane Garvey said yesterday.

"As of this morning we've got about 47 inspections in ... about 50 per cent are showing some signs of abrasions," Ms Garvey said in an interview on NBC's *Today Show*.

Last Sunday, the FAA ordered 737s with more than 50,000 flight hours to stay on the ground until electrical wires in the fuel tanks were inspected and repairs made to prevent the

possibility of fire or an explo-  
sion. The FAA ordered the imme-  
diate inspections after find-  
ing new cases of damage to  
the wires that carry high volt-  
age power to fuel pumps.

Attention has been on fuel-  
tank ignition sources since the  
1996 crash of a TWA 747 near  
New York which killed all 230  
people on board when fuel-tank  
vapours apparently exploded.  
While the exact cause of the  
crash is still being investigated,  
it has triggered research and reg-  
ulation affecting an ever-widen-  
ing range of aircraft models and  
manufacturers. Ms Garvey as-  
sured passengers flying yesterday  
that all 737s in the air were safe.

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# 'Sinner' Estrada wins over hearts of Filipino poor

By Stephen Vines  
in Manila

**WHEN** President Bill Clinton arrived in the Philippines two years ago his security men spotted a large man sporting an Elvis Presley hair style lurching towards the presidential aircraft. Quick off the mark, they blocked his path. The large man was outraged. "I'm the Vice-President," he protested. Yesterday, that man declared himself the winner of the presidential poll, even though voting was still under way.

Joseph "Erap" Estrada may not look like a president or vice-president to United States security aides but he looks every bit the saviour to the poor in the Philippines, who make up the overwhelming majority of the population.

They are not bothered that he claims election victory before the votes are counted, or gets muddled by long sentences and would never have got into the mess facing President Clinton over sexual encounters with women.

Their man does not hide things such as womanising. "The people like the fact that he's the only candidate who's not a hypocrite," said Ronaldo Zamora, one of Erap's key campaign managers.

Erap - a nickname derived from the Filipino word for buddy - regards his love of women as an asset, indeed one of his best-known mistresses was out on the campaign trail with him.

His aides say he is now off alcohol. If true, sales of Johnnie Walker Blue Label must have slumped in the Philippines. There must also be distress in the casino industry which is reported to have lost a high-rolling client.

Will his lifestyle stop Erap winning the election? The

Catholic Bishops Conference, a highly influential body, made a last-ditch attempt to thwart his chances.

"Vote for persons who morally, intellectually and physically show themselves capable of inspiring the whole nation towards a hopeful future," said the bishops in a pastoral letter issued on Sunday. They did not need to say so but their appeal was a clear cry for the people to vote for anyone but Erap. But it looks as though it will fall on deaf ears.

Mr Estrada has struck a cord with the mass of the people who are struggling to make ends meet and have recently found that struggle even harder as the Philippines was hit by the tidal wave of the Asian financial crisis. Why will you vote for Erap? I have asked all sorts of people during this campaign. "Erap para sa mahirap," they invariably replied, echoing the campaign slogan of "Erap for the poor".

Yesterday, in the Tondo district of Manila, which used to be notorious for the vast rubbish dump known as Smoky Mountain where most of the people lived, voters crowding into polling stations were even shunning their local hero Alfredo Lim, who is also standing for president. "Erap is for us," said one old woman as an enthusiastic crowd gathered and nodded in agreement.

They see Mr Estrada as the only candidate who speaks their language and really cares about them. His critics and the intellectuals who are appalled by the thought of an Estrada presidency say that what they really see is the movie matinee idol who became a politician three decades ago but left an indelible impression on the national psyche by portraying the hero of the poor on the silver screen.

The plot of these highly popular films was simple - Erap, the bulky, heavily mustached man from the streets would be pitted against a rich and more powerful opponent, yet, in his simple way, managed to defeat the big guy.

Theresa Enciso, one of his many daughters, insists that Mr Estrada's supporters no longer view him as a movie star. "They admire what he has done for the people," she insisted, "what he has achieved in government."

It is true that Erap became a successful mayor of San Juan, a suburb of Manila, but it is hard to point to any success he had either as a senator or as vice-president. In the senate he was best known for sleeping during its interminable meetings. As vice-president, he headed a crime-busting unit which drew a very thin line between fighting crime and behaving in an unlawful way towards suspects.

Once President Fidel Ramos pushed his deputy out of this unit he gave him nothing else to do and treated him with contempt. Erap's revenge is likely to emerge when the votes are counted and Jose de Venecia, the candidate backed by President Ramos, is spurned.

However, Philippine elections are known neither for their sobriety nor their certainty. Mr Estrada is facing a mighty machine under Mr de Venecia's command. That machine might prove better at getting out the vote.

If it does not stand by for a very different style of government. President Ramos, the workaholic who rises at dawn, will be replaced by Mr Estrada who is not at best in the hours of daylight and happily admits that he will leave all the bothersome details of government to a big team of advisers.

## PHILIPPINE POLLS - ANY EXCUSE FOR A PARTY

**H**OW do you find one of the 14,374 polling stations in the Philippines? Follow the paper trail. Mounds of discarded leaflets litter the streets in front of the stations, which are festooned with flags and posters bearing candidates' names.

It looks more like a fiesta than an election day. "Elections are like feast days or Christmas," said Father Ferdinand Hernando, one of the many poll watchers trying to keep the poll clean. "It's part of the Philippine culture to make a feast out of everything, even funerals," he added with a smile.

Most polling stations are in schools where every

classroom is transformed into a voting station for each sub-district. Inside voters face the arduous task of writing down the names of 30 candidates for every post, from president to city councillor. The voting booths are cardboard boxes balanced on the knees of electors. There are no printed lists of candidates on the forms.

Counting is done laboriously by tellers calling out the names on the slips one by one to a team marking them off on big lists. The quick count in this election will take 10 days to complete while the long count will take even more time.



'Erap' Estrada, who speaks the language of the poor not the language of government

Photograph: Bullit Marquez/AP

## Hungary left considers pact

**H**UNGARY'S hard-pressed Socialists decided yesterday to step up their general election campaign to stay ahead of an emerging right but did not exclude the possibility of a broad coalition.

"In politics nothing can be ruled out," Socialist Prime Minister Gyula Horn said after a meeting of the party's presidency. "It is very important to preserve stability and the country's ability to operate."

The Socialists gained 32.25 per cent of the vote in Sunday's first round but their coalition partner Free Democrats fell below 8 per cent while second place Fidesz shot up to 28.2 per cent. The agrarian Smallholders rose sharply to 13.8 per cent and the far-right Hungarian Justice and Life Party scored 5.5 per cent, enter parliament for the first time. Reuters, Budapest

## Italy murders

**A**GAMBLED suspected of murdering women traveling alone on trains is being investigated for more than 20 other killings on the Italian Riviera from 1993. Prosecutors said they were looking into all unsolved murders in the area for links to the suspect, Donato Bilancia.

Bilancia, 47, was arrested last week in Genoa in connection with the two train killings. Investigators later said he was a suspect in the deaths of four prostitutes and two security guards.

AP, Rome

## Somali clashes

**A**T LEAST 14 people died and 25 were wounded in fresh fighting on Sunday and Monday between rival Somali factions around the southern port of Kismayu, witnesses said.

General Mohamed Seeed Hirsi Morgan's Majerteen clan was reported to have made further advances to the north and yesterday captured Kansuma, on the road to Mogadishu, after heavy clashes with the Marehan clan. Local reports said that he casualties were mainly among militiamen from both sides.

Reuters, Mogadishu

## Rwanda party

**RWANDANS** sought release yesterday from the threat of death and economic hardship as they danced in homage to reggae legend Bob Marley whose message of peace and unity has found fertile ground in the central African nation. Some 7,000 young people who gathered on the Nyamirambo soccer field to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the Jamaican's death.

AP, Kigali

## Kinkel makes aid immigration issue

By Imre Karacs  
Bonn

**I**N AN election race increasingly inspired by fear and loathing of foreigners, Germany's Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, leapt to the head of the field yesterday with an imaginative plan to punish the Third World.

African and Asian countries resisting the repatriation of their citizens should, he suggested, be deprived of aid.

Mr Kinkel outlined the plan, to be written into the election

manifesto of his Free Democrat Party, in an interview with the tabloid *Bild Zeitung*. "It cannot go on that some countries block the deportation of their own citizens from Germany," the Foreign Minister said.

"When countries fail to cooperate in this area, they must be made aware of the possible consequences: reduction or withdrawal of foreign aid."

Eighteen countries in Africa are said to be guilty of hindering the German clear-out, including Ghana, Nigeria, Togo,

Gambia, Bangladesh and famine-ravaged Sudan. Germany has 270,000 asylum-seekers awaiting the knock on the door from immigration officials.

An estimated 70,000 come from Mr Kinkel's hit-list, constituting less than 0.1 per cent of Germany's population, while a further 9,000 are believed to have arrived from Africa and Asia. The latter group cannot be repatriated because they had taken the precaution of burning their passports, and will not tell Germans where "home" is.

Although black and Asian people are anything but visible, confined as they are to detention centres and refugee homes, they have a high profile. German media reports dealing with crime, and jibes at their expense play well at election rallies. Apart from the Greens, no party is willing to speak up on their behalf.

After elections last month in the Land of Saxony-Anhalt, where the racist German People's Union swept up 13 per cent of the vote, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition renewed its interest in the threats and inconveniences posed by foreigners.

Until yesterday, Mr Kohl's Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union, led the way with calls for the repatriation of entire families where one juvenile

is caught shoplifting. Mr Kinkel has now trumped that with his plan, to the irritation of his Bavarian colleagues. The Minister for Development Aid, Carl-Dieter Spranger, who is a member of the CSU, was quick to protest yesterday at not having been consulted.

## Where world debt takes away the lives of children

**P**aul Vallely looks at the people who have most to gain from the G8 summit

A stately figure whose poverty seemed only to enhance her dignity, spoke anxiously to the press.

Suddenly the child retched violently and spewed a stream of vomit all over her mother and the medic. She was a doctor, a doctor diagnosed, in the grip of the latter stages of malaria. "This is a very sick little girl," he said.

It may have been too late to save her in any case. We would never know. The clinic had no anti-malaria drugs. She was given paracetamol and taken away to die.

It was a routine event. Later I met a doctor at another clinic who said that the monthly box of drugs which clinics receive from the Ministry of Health usually lasts only a fortnight.

A pretty girl with long dark braided hair, wearing a dusty maroon and brown print dress, stood barefoot before the admissions table. She was aged about four. Her mother, a tall

area in which extensive "adjustments" to the budget have been made under an IMF-backed programme to help Zambia find enough money to pay the interest on its debts to the rich world - a world whose leaders meet at the G8 summit in Birmingham to discuss Third World Debt this weekend. Such programmes are in operation all over the Africa. Today, Zambia spends three times as much paying interest on its debt as it does on healthcare.

That is not all. At the behest of the Western creditor governments, the Zambian health service has been reorganised along the purchaser/provider system which has caused such controversy in the British NHS.

So there is a familiar air to

in Lusaka the number of outpatients has dropped by two-thirds since fees were introduced.

Infant mortality, once diminishing, is on the increase. Today one child in five dies before its fifth birthday.

According to the IMF there are supposed to be waivers for the poor. In theory. In practice some hospitals refuse to administer them; others make them so complicated that the poor are too bemused to apply.

In any case there is not always time. In a village near Lusaka recently an eight-month-old baby developed malaria. It took her parents two days to raise the 3,000 kwacha in hospital fees.

Eventually they collected it by going round relatives and friends and then walked for three hours to the hospital. The child died in her mother's arms at the hospital gate: 3,000 kwacha is 1.02 pence.

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## Japanese film reopens Chinese war wounds

By Teresa Poole

CHINA has been infuriated by a Japanese film which Peking accuses of "whitewashing aggression and singing the praises" of Hideki Tojo, Japan's wartime prime minister, who was executed for war crimes in 1948.

*Pride - the Fateful Moment*, premiered for the Japanese media on Friday, immediately prompted an outcry from the Chinese government, including a lengthy "commentary" on the main evening television news lambasting the Japanese producers.

China was "shocked and indignant" at the film, said the *China Daily* yesterday, accusing it of "distorting historical facts" and depicting charges against Japanese troops of war crimes as "almost frame-ups based on hearsay evidence and over-statement". The film portrays the trial and last days of Tojo, who was prime minister from 1941 to 1944. At his trial, he accepted responsibility for starting the Pacific war.



China's depiction of its own recent past offers a less than honest portrayal of events including the Great Leap Forward famine, the Cultural Revolution, and the Tiananmen Square massacre, but that has never stopped Peking from whitewashing the history of Japanese aggression against China.

"Such an act is bound to be strongly condemned by people who face up to history and love peace, including the Japanese people," Mr Zhu said.

"The crimes committed by the Japanese troops are proved by a mass of iron-clad and irrefutable evidence, and a just verdict was

reached by the international community long ago. Hideki Tojo was the chief criminal of that war of aggression," he added. The film was based in part on the writings of Tojo's grand-daughter.

Sino-Japanese relations remain dogged by history, despite massive Japanese investment over the past 20 years.

Chinese children are regularly marched through the museum at Marco Polo Bridge, in the southwestern Peking suburbs, which catalogues Japanese wartime atrocities. The Marco Polo Bridge "incident" on 7 July 1937, when Chinese and Japanese troops clashed, sparked the full-scale Japanese invasion.

Last July the Chinese propaganda machine put great effort into marking both the 60th anniversary of the Japanese invasion of China and the 25th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic ties.

The *People's Daily*, mouthpiece of the Communist Party, thundered: "Some frantic militarist trumpesters in present Japan are trying to justify the crimes and atrocities."



Fiction and fact: Tojo's trial in the film (above), and the actual hearing (left) Photograph: Reuters

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## US drags Bibi back to the table

By Mary Dejevsky  
in Washington

TALKS between the US and Israel on removing obstacles to the next stage of the Middle East peace process will resume in Washington tomorrow, at a meeting between the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.

The meeting was announced less than 24 hours after the failure of talks between Mr Netanyahu and the US special envoy, Dennis Ross, and the cancellation of yesterday's planned summit between President Bill Clinton, Mr Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

The announcement of new talks, which came in the face of the most serious rift between the US and Israel since the founding of the state of Israel 50 years ago, seemed designed to keep hope of agreement alive and quash speculation that the US role in the Middle East peace process might be over.

The Israeli prime minister, however, had planned to be in the US for a private visit, anyway, so the meeting may turn out to be little more than a formality.

Officially, Washington still appears to believe that Mr Netanyahu will come round to accepting a modified form of the US condition for a summit: agreement to hand over the next 13 per cent of West Bank territory to Palestinian authority, as stipulated in the 1993 Oslo accords. Such a summit could even be rescheduled for the end of the month.

Others suggested that Mr Clinton could make public the small print of US terms for agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, demonstrate the "reasonableness" of the proposals, and challenge Mr Netanyahu to come up with an alternative. This would be denounced in Congress, however, where 81 Senators last month signed an open letter to Mr Clinton appealing to him not to make the terms public.

According to one view in Washington, however, Mr Clinton's hand is not as weak as it may look thanks to a combination of circumstances in the Middle East and at home, and there may be virtue in waiting. So long as there is no new flare-up of terrorist violence in Israel and the occupied territories, Mr Netanyahu's brandishing of the security threat and forecasts of all-out war, will look less convincing. With relations between the US, on the one hand, and Iran and Iraq, on the other, now looking less tense, Washington's regional need for Israel is also diminished, albeit temporarily.

Leading article, page 16



Benjamin Netanyahu: Due in the US for a private visit

## WORLDCOVER

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# Real men can have feelings

The motor trade might not be the first place you would look to find a group of males discussing the things that get them down at work and home. It's a healthy trend – but will it catch on? By Peter Baker

A SMALL room above a workshop on an industrial estate near Tunbridge Wells probably sounds an unpromising place to try to help a group of men develop greater self-awareness and inter-personal skills. Also, these men are definitely not new-agey types into tree-hugging or sweat lodges but regular blokes working in the motor industry.

Hardly a week goes by without another instalment in the "Men in Trouble" story. Last week, a NSPCC conference on Men as Fathers heard that many men are struggling to balance work with family life, with many feeling obliged to hide their involvement with children from their colleagues. And a survey of 1,000 office workers showed that 82 per cent of men hate working for a woman – tricky when female managers have increased by 60 per cent since 1994.

But at the MCL Group, a car importing, distribution and marketing company, they know about these things. Ten men, all junior managers in their 20s and 30s, have volunteered to join Navigator, a unique workplace-based personal development programme for men run by The Springboard Consultancy. This is the second of four one-day training sessions. Downstairs, the latest shiny and sporty Mazdas are being lovingly inspected by men in overalls. Upstairs, in the training room, their colleagues, mostly dressed in jeans and trainers, are exploring how to cope with change, better understand body language and improve their listening skills.

There is, of course, plenty of banter. When the facilitator, James Traeger, explains that everyone has a "personal zone" extending up to 40cm from their body, he is told "you must have a big 'un'. When asked about goals, David suggests: "I might try lager rather than bitter tonight." And John's decision to lose 5lbs is greeted with: "That's just one dump." Traeger reminds the group that they discussed banter and agreed it was acceptable so long as it did not turn into put-downs. But the joking is sporadic and good-humoured and does not inhibit discussion of serious issues.

Listening is a key topic in the afternoon session. Traeger begins by asking the men to work in pairs. One man has to talk about something that interests him while the other pretends to be bored or indifferent. The aim is to demonstrate how hard it is to communicate when you are being ignored. Traeger then explains that when people talk they are communicating three things: thoughts, feelings and intentions. To demonstrate this, the men are divided into small groups. Each man talks for five minutes while his colleagues observe and then discuss.

The subjects would amaze anyone who still believes most men are incapable of reflecting on little besides sport, beer and politics. David talks openly about the effects on his life of surviving a serious car crash and, soon after, a life-threatening case of testicular cancer. James (not Traeger) de-

scribes how he wants to put more energy into his family life, while Andy speaks of his doubts about marriage and how difficult that is for his girlfriend.

Traeger moves on to other key themes. He explains how men can cope better with the feelings engendered by change (which range from shock and denial to anger and depression), take risks at work and in their personal lives and adopt new ways of learning. The day ends with a goal-setting exercise for the next session in four week's time.

A recurring issue, and one that explains why these men chose to join Navigator, is that they feel in a rut at work and that, despite decent salaries and subsidised sports cars, their jobs seem to be going nowhere. Several explain that their work has become very specialised, making it hard to move within the company, and, because there are no similar firms in the local area, changing employers would require difficult life-changes.

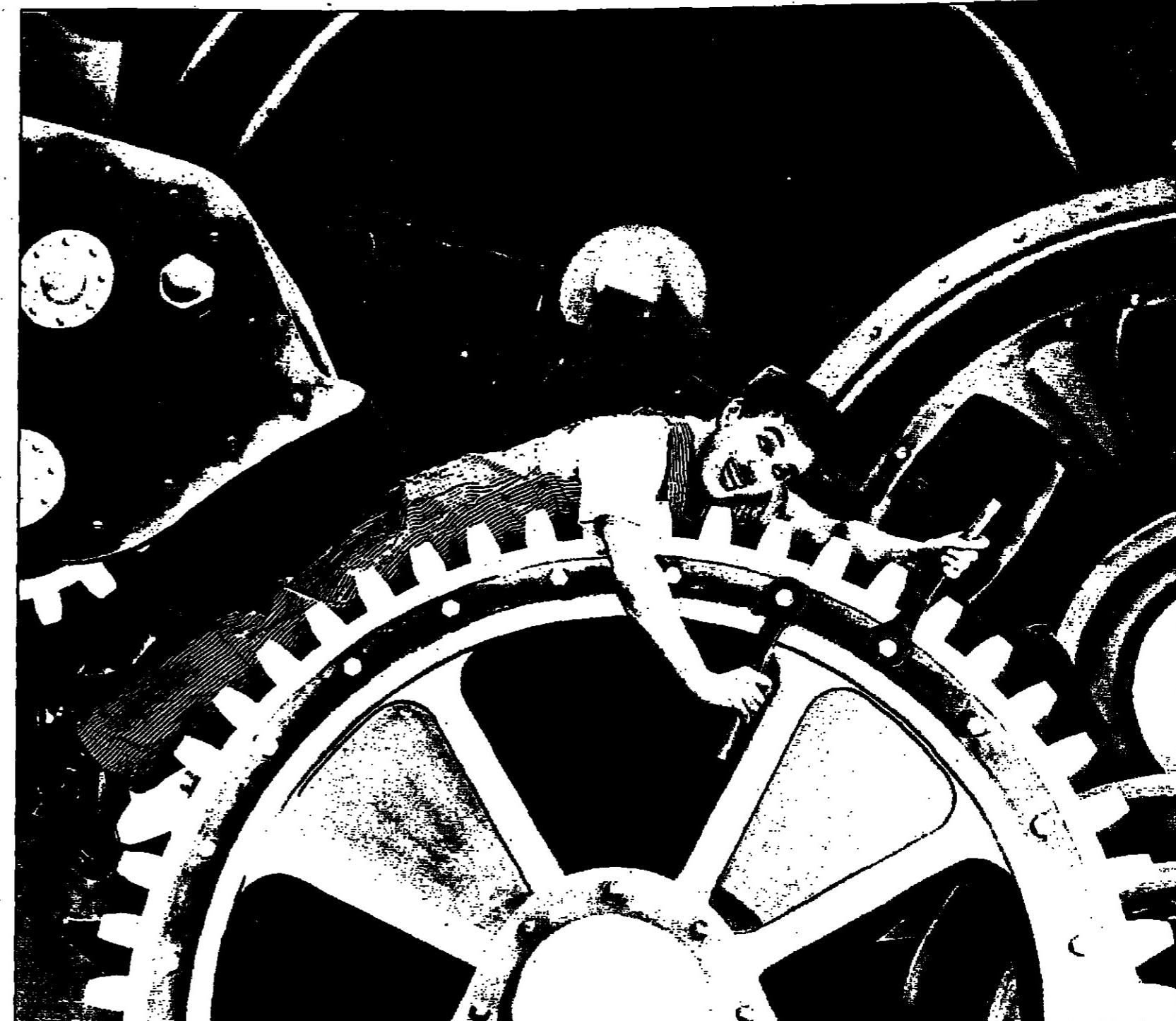
This sense of dissatisfaction with work resonates with many men's experience of the contemporary workplace. The end of the job for life, the replacement of manufacturing with service industries, the flattening of traditional hierarchies, the increasingly important role of women and the demand

## The programme refuses to accept that men are inherently hopeless and attempts to help them adapt to changing times

for new "feminine" skills, such as communication, teamwork and flexibility, are fundamentally altering men's relationship with work, profoundly affecting their sense of identity and self-esteem.

Navigator aims to help men deal better with these issues. While many commentators bemoan contemporary masculinity, this programme refuses to accept that men are inherently hopeless and is one of a few attempts to help men adapt to the changing times. "It's about giving men a sense of direction, enabling them to take responsibility for themselves and extending their skills," explains Traeger. "Navigator examines male identity and values, explores relationships with women, provides an opportunity for realistic self-assessment and develops interpersonal abilities. It's not about creating 'new men'; it's about helping men develop their own solutions."

As MCL's interest in Navigator suggests, it is not intended to appeal to firms which are weird or wacky. Indeed, the programme



Going round in circles: Like Charlie Chaplin in 'Modern Times', many men feel in a rut at work and that their jobs are going nowhere

Photograph: MSI

## Can Tessa Jowell turn you into a better bloke?

THE Department of Health launched its first advice booklet aimed at men yesterday. "Life Begins at 40: Health Tips for Men", is aimed primarily at middle-aged, working-class men, a group at particular risk of heart disease and cancer, and will be distributed through male-oriented sites, such as DIY stores and sports clubs. The booklet contains advice about smoking, drinking, stress and exercise and uses "blokey" cartoon humour to get its message across.

It is a long-overdue initiative. Health pages in newspapers and magazines are full of articles on prostate cancer, impotence and falling sperm counts, and bookshops are brimming with self-help health books for men. Pick up the phone and you can talk about sexual difficulties, depression, infertility – any problem affecting the modern male. It seems men's health is more talked about than ever.

Except by the Government. In "Our Healthier Nation", the recently published blueprint for the future of public health, men's problems are conspicuous only by their absence. But, belatedly, there are now signs of change.

Although Tessa Jowell, the

minister for health, rejects talk of a "crisis" in men's health, she accepts that "being a man is a cause of health inequality", and is particularly concerned about men's high levels of heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, accidents and suicide.

The minister believes the reasons for the poor state of men's health are as yet unclear, but are probably both biological and social.

"Men are more likely than women to take more risks with their health and less likely to seek help at the earliest possible stage," she says.

It is a long-overdue initiative. Health pages in newspapers and magazines are full of articles on prostate cancer, impotence and falling sperm counts, and bookshops are brimming with self-help health books for men. Pick up the phone and you can talk about sexual difficulties, depression, infertility – any problem affecting the modern male. It seems men's health is more talked about than ever.

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reach women, we put leaflets in supermarkets, but I think we've got to be much more imaginative about the way we reach men. Maybe information needs to go in pubs, in gyms and workplaces." Using footballers and other sports role models could also help get positive messages across. Hence the new leaflet.

But Ms Jowell places much more emphasis on the role of Young Living Centres (HLCs), one of the Government's big health ideas. Funded by the National Lottery, these are intended to respond to local health needs, with a focus on diet, smoking, drinking, drug misuse and physical activity.

Although she is vague about how they might work with men, the minister believes they could become sites for "well-man" clinics. A recent Gallup survey suggested that three-quarters of men would like to see more of these.

Although she is not convinced of the need for a national screening programme for prostate cancer – "the evidence is highly equivocal and it's been put on the backburner" – Ms Jowell does support promoting testicular self-examination among

younger men. Rates for testicular cancer have doubled in the past 20 years.

The Government is also commissioning research into sperm counts, which have halved since 1940. "Some of the suggested trends are undoubtedly sinister, but it's important not to draw hasty conclusions without being absolutely sure about the scientific evidence," she says.

One men's health

Government initiative already in place is CALM – the Campaign Against Living Miserably, a helpline for young men in Manchester, an area with twice the national rate of suicide. Since its launch in December, CALM has responded to more than 3,000 calls and the scheme has been extended beyond its original three-month lifespan. "We ought to look at CALM's effectiveness and see what can be applied to other parts of the country, perhaps through HLCs," says Ms Jowell.

But the reality for improving men's health does not just rest with politicians. If men were to campaign as women have, there is little doubt their health could be transformed.

Peter Baker

## TV laughter is the best medicine



DR PHIL HAMMOND

"WHO'S the other guest?"  
"Patrick Moore."  
"Well, they won't touch him. He's a national treasure. So what have they got on you?"  
"I've no idea."  
"You must be fucking mad."

So pronounced a colleague after I'd agreed to appear on *Have I Got News For You*. I wasn't going to until Boris Johnson kindly bleated in *The Spectator* that it was a pre-scripted fix. If I could just get my hands on the script, cover all the angles and come out fighting. So, I agreed, on condition that they bike a copy down for me to digest in advance. I waited in all day Monday. Nothing. And Tuesday. Nothing again. Bastards.

When I arrived at the studios, I was spat at and jostled by the security staff. One knocked off my glasses and crushed them under an orthopaedic shoe. Then Hislop appeared through a cloud of dry ice in a pink crutchless tutu screaming, "Hey, ginge! We're going to dance on your grave tonight." Or it could have been, "Hello Phil, would you like a cup of tea?" On the way to

make up, I passed Paul Merton dressed as some sort of reaper. He looks so nice on TV, but when I asked to see a copy of the script, he brought his scythe down on my left arm and sliced it clean off at the elbow.

Fortunately, this left me one for the tea which, in all fairness, was thoroughly pleasant. Unfortunately, it had been spiked with the date-rape drug rohypnol. The rest of the evening was a blur. I have vague memories of the dark, shadowy images of Hislop and Merton bearing down on me from either end, while Deayton smirked and a large man with a monocle used my mid-section as a xylophone. I was discovered three weeks later in the staff toilet at Limpie Stoke Happy Eater. A tough gig but a picnic compared with *Tits and Fibs*.

*Tits and Fibs* – you may remember – was a madcap medical quiz that faded out of the Channel 5 line-up a few months ago. The 26 episodes took 10 days to record, and most nights we were turning round three shows in a session. The studio audiences ranged from seven to 70+ in age and size – and there were some decidedly dodgy

rounds (eg: Dr Hilary asking Craig Charles to draw the symbolic pubis on a bikini-clad model with an indelible pen).

But it was the structure that really did for it. The captains were both doctors and we knew most of the answers. The guests weren't and didn't. So either the guests had to be pre-briefed with the correct answers ("Craig, what are mittelschmerz?") "Ooh... I know. Is it pain in the lower abdomen experienced about midway between successive menstrual periods?"). Or the questions had to be dumbed down ("Who knows a song with doctor in the title?") or the scoring had to be totally abandoned.

We went mainly for the latter – a big mistake because no matter how stupid the show, the audience care about the score. And so should the contestants.

Ian Hislop warned me at the outset of *HIGNFY* that we would lose. "Paul is doubly competitive. He'll start by being funniest and then when the 'odd one out' round comes in, he starts concentrating on winning. But at least it gives other people the chance to crack a joke."

In fact, the skill of the show

is that Deayton allows contestants the space to spar whenever they want to. With only one show to record, there's all the time in the world to shine or make a complete tit of yourself. The result lasts 75 minutes but edits to 30 – not just to cut out the dead wood but to balance the contributions and damp down slander and obscenity.

As for preparation, Deayton links from an autocue. Wow. There is no script or rehearsal. You do get to see – very briefly – the video clips, odd one out and headlines two hours before kick off. This is primarily to stop new guests soiling their pants. But all it really does is provide a structure to ad lib around.

Once the rohypnol kicked in, my contributions became ever more unpredictable, but each time Merton trumped them with something much funnier and with impeccable timing. I had captained 26 episodes of *Tits and Fibs* without smiling once, and within a minute I was grinning like a village idiot. Deayton and Hislop, too, are happy living off their cuffs. Take it from a doctor. These boys can improvise.

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# He defied the US government. Now it must decide: has Bill Gates finally got too big for his own boots?

HISTORY may be made in Washington this week, and we are not talking about the Middle East peace process or the latest twist in President Clinton's sexgate saga. Featuring the US Justice Department and a single corporation far away on the West Coast, this is much dryer fare, with baffling buzzwords like "bundling" and "browsers".

Know that company is Microsoft, however, and you begin to guess at its importance.

Even the barely computer-literate among us understand the power of Microsoft and its mega-billionaire CEO, William Gates III. Its Windows operating systems are to be found in no less than 90 per cent of all personal computers bought today. The Seattle-based behemoth has become the prime symbol of energy and innovation in a humungous US economy. Because of its success, however, it is also feared.

It is that fear that may now threaten much of what Microsoft has achieved. Anti-trust (or monopoly) regulators in the Justice Department, as well as politicians in several US states, are asking themselves a highly portentous question: is Mr Gates now presiding over a monopoly so powerful that free competition in the computer sector is being stifled? Is Microsoft, with its easy-to-use Windows technology, good news for consumers, or is it actually bad news? If the latter is the case, what is to be done?

Unfolding before us is a government-vs-private-enterprise battle of gigantic proportions that dates back to the introduction three years ago of Windows 95. In a first lunge at Microsoft, the Justice Department persuaded Mr Gates to desist from bundling into Windows a new feature called Internet Explorer. Known as a "browser", it offered users a free direct connection to the pages of the World Wide

By David Usborne

Web. It was Mr Gates' first attempt to seize primacy in the newly-emerging Internet market and flatten others who had grasped its importance before him, notably Netscape Communications.

Since then the Justice Department has accused Gates of renegeing on that deal and has filed with the federal courts for an injunction against Microsoft selling any more Windows programmes with an integrated Explorer function. A ruling from the courts is now pending and last week Microsoft filed a pre-emptive appeal.

In recent days, however, the war has be-

come considerably hotter, and for one principle reason: on Friday, Microsoft plans to begin shipping to PC manufacturers its sequel to Windows 95. It is Windows 98, and needless to say, among the options that will appear on its start-up screen is Internet Explorer. Windows 98 is scheduled to be available on computer shop shelves towards the end of June.

What has been evident for some time is that the Justice Department and the single-minded Tsar of the Microsoft dossier, Joel Klein, is weighing a much broader anti-

trust action against Microsoft than the one already in train. It is also clear that if the action is indeed to be launched, it probably will have to happen before Friday. There is one immediate possible consequence: a new and instant order that Explorer be stripped from Windows 98 before it is shipped. That could delay its launch by several months.

And it is not just Mr Klein that Microsoft has to worry about. Eager to win their own starring roles in what may be the biggest anti-trust action since the break-up in 1911 of Standard Oil – the Rockefeller-owned giant that held a 90 per cent share in its US market – the attorneys general of as many as 20 individual US states are also considering lawsuits against the company for monopoly behaviour.

Just how far Mr Klein might want to go in humiliating Microsoft is still a matter entirely of conjecture. While seeking its break-up *a la Standard* is an option, most observers still consider it unlikely. Forcing Gates to unbundle Explorer would surely be a first line of attack, however. He might even seek to oblige Microsoft to make amends for past sins, for instance by actually featuring Netscape's rival browser function on the Windows platform. As a justification, Mr Klein could point out that once Microsoft began essentially giving away its browser for free as part of Windows, Netscape's share of the Internet-connection market plunged from a high of 75 per cent to about 55 per cent today.

Speculation is also rife that Mr Gates will be accused simultaneously of abusing an agreement he struck with rival Sun Microsystems to use its pioneering Java computer language on the Windows platform. Sun has alleged that Java was conceived as a language that could be used on all types of computers, and that Microsoft, by

slightly altering its version of Java, has basically sabotaged that essential feature.

Events could, however, take a much less dramatic turn. Conceivably, Klein and Gates might yet strike an amicable settlement. It is even possible that the Justice Department and some of the attorneys general could retreat from battle, particularly if they conclude that they are on the wrong side of the philosophical argument about government intrusion in private enterprise.

Microsoft, needless to say, has been running a high-octane spin campaign in de-

fence of its practices for very many months. Politicians, journalists and Klein himself have been furiously lobbied. At a rally in New York last week, Gates surrounded himself with CEOs from other computer companies all claiming that any delay in the release of Windows 98 could be ruinous for them and even for the US economy at large. And in the realm of public opinion,

Mr Gates may be winning. A poll commissioned by Microsoft last week suggested that most ordinary Americans think Microsoft should be left alone.

The enemies of Microsoft like to indulge in almost Biblical metaphors about the doom that a Microsoft monopoly will visit upon us. "If it's Microsoft versus mankind," remarked Larry Ellison, the chief of Oracle, "I'm on the team of mankind." But others with faith in the free market's power of self-correction have a quite different take. If Windows is on 90 per cent of computers there is a reason: people like it.

It is a conundrum, and this week it belongs to Mr Klein.



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## 'My mother thought Shakespeare sent me mad'

### REVELATIONS

The time: 1982.  
The place: Small Heath, Birmingham  
The man: David Harewood, actor

I LAUGH when I walk round the National Theatre, where I am playing Othello, and look at the pictures of the famous actors in famous plays – I haven't heard of any of them. I am a fraud: a lark-about, mess-about kid from Birmingham who's touring the world with this great Shakespearean work. I don't know a lot about theatre because I didn't ever really want to be an actor.

Academically, I was never a high-flyer at Washwood Heath comprehensive school, mainly because I was the class clown. I stayed on for sixth form because the opportunities were slim. I was being geared up for factory fodder at the local Lucas or Leyland plant, the alternative was Kings Cross selling your bum!

I had an audition for the Birmingham Youth Theatre and, funny enough, I'd learnt two speeches from Othello. One by Othello himself and the other by Iago – because I couldn't make my mind up which one I wanted to play! I had no idea of the political shenanigans which surround the part. Unfortunately there was no place for me. I wasn't crestfallen, it would just be tougher than I first thought. Three days later I found out about a six-week course at the National Youth Theatre.

I had the most brilliant time. There were three other black guys, but two of them completely ignored me. It was the first time I got a taste of what it would be like to be in competition with them.

Finally, I won a place at RADA, but with no goals, no ambitions, I was just having a laugh. I went home after the first term speaking like Prince

IAGO: "Ummin, we'll see."

My dad, a long-distance lorry driver, refused to let me do it. West Indian parents are very aware of the need to earn a living. None of the family were theatre people, never even visited one. They were gobsmacked. My brothers laughed and my sister was quite worried because it most probably meant going down to London where you are murdered or end up at Kings Cross selling your bum!

I had an audition for the Birmingham Youth Theatre and, funny enough, I'd learnt two speeches from Othello. One by Othello himself and the other by Iago – because I couldn't make my mind up which one I wanted to play! I had no idea of the political shenanigans which surround the part. Unfortunately there was no place for me. I wasn't crestfallen, it would just be tougher than I first thought. Three days later I found out about a six-week course at the National Youth Theatre.

Charles and my mother went mad. They wanted me to learn the received pronunciation so I didn't have to play brummie all my life, we were told to keep it up over the holidays – but all I could manage was three days because my mates took the piss.

I came out of drama school and suddenly I was a black

total unhappiness. I'd left a very secure home in Birmingham and found more friends at RADA, but in the business everything was full of politics, ego and envy. People hated me because I was successful and because I was black. I ended up being so miserable that I invented somebody else to be another character who was

an undercover secret agent. Rather than telling them to fuck off I was trying to be different characters for different people – hoping to make everybody like me. I ended up feeling exhausted.

In the last few days before I collapsed, I was incredibly mentally active. Luckily because I'm an entertainer it was not manifesting itself in violence. I was just being very funny. All my mates knew there was something wrong because I was manic, seeing things from strange angles and dressing. Finally I passed out and was rushed to hospital. I nearly ended up in a top security mental institution because I was zipping in and out of different characters and quoting Shakespeare.

Fortunately my friends told them I was an actor and luckily the nurse on duty believed their story. She could have gone tick and I would have been committed.

I was completely out for three days. I don't remember anything, just waking up and seeing all my family round the bed. There were times when I was almost like a vegetable and could only communicate with my eyes; at other times I went berserk which made my parents even more upset. With all the drugs inside me, I started behaving like some mad person. To this day the doctors still don't know what happened to me, my mother was convinced that Shakespeare sent me mad.

When I was given the role of Othello at the National, I

there were some terrible articles. I have one pinned on my wall, it made me so angry: "Why has it been given to this young unknown black actor, when there are countless white actors who could black up and play the role?"

These are the attitudes I would like to confront. It is now ridiculous to see a white person blacked up. White actors find it difficult to key into, coming from so little, to have risen so high and then to be destroyed. Even today I could walk out of this theatre, after playing in one of the most successful Shakespearean productions in the National's history and be on the dole. There is a ceiling for black actors and it is very difficult to have a career.

The world out there for me is still very real and very white. But I know I'll never go back to that hospital again. I've learnt that I'm not the only one. It might seem strange as I'm 32, but what I didn't have before was a grounding in my black consciousness. My preparation and reading for Othello has helped me achieve that. I now have an idea where I fit into the big picture. I still walk into shops and the owners reach for the stock as if I'm going to steal it. These realities take on stage every night – every night. That's where Othello has helped me. I'm not playing – I'm being.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

Othello is at the National Theatre until the 13th of June.



Photo: PA Wire/PA Photos

# The tedium is not the message

Image was everything at the 150th anniversary celebration of Marx's 'Communist Manifesto', observes Michael Glover

**THIS** is a night of hope, a night of renewal, I am thinking to myself as I tentatively approach the seething entrance to the Conway Hall in Red Lion Square, that Thirties temple of radical thinking.

Yes, here they all are, hundreds of them, the old street-fighting, leftie theoreticians of yesteryear, gathered together on this balmy Saturday night – and what better weather could one imagine than this for an imaginative re-run of the great proletarian project? – to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first publication of the *Communist Manifesto*.

I can hardly get through them all, all these cheerily persistent paper-thrusters, pamphlet pushers, pamphlet penners, radical newspaper sellers, leftie booksellers. Makeshift book stalls have been erected in the street to advertise the latest from the magical Merlin Press – the *Socialist Register*, for example, an annual collection of essays, which was first published in the early Sixties and dreams on to this day.

Every copy, whether this year's or the year before last's, is on sale at £10. This can mean only one thing: there is no such thing as a remaindered book to the leftist publisher. An old book becomes an instant and highly collectable classic, steeped in the wisdom of yesteryear.

A smiling Iraqi gentleman thrusts a copy of a Communist Party manifesto into my face. I ask him whether this is the real Communist Party or some fractious splinter group. "He smiles at me engagingly. "We are the fact Communist Party," he replies. And then, with great attention to detail, he hands over six sheets of A4 paper which bristle with exclamation marks, every one a deadly taunt to the faint of

heart: "Workers! Freedom Loving People! Parties, Political and Mass Organisations and all those who defend Political Freedom and Human Rights!"

Sad to say, many of the freedom-loving people gathered here tonight for this morale-boosting occasion are extremely delicate looking. I count at least one zimmer frame, several hearing aids, various wheelchairs, and many, many stout sticks, often awkward to skirt around without causing distressing destabilisation. There are cliquey, antique Hampstead radicals, linen-jacketed, bow-tied, with vile bourse.

The actresses look aggressively anti-proletarian. It is at this point that I fall asleep

geois accents and impeccable theoretical positions; there is the harshly laughing man in the much-unwashed "Smash the Poll Tax" t-shirt. Those ancient, haunting words set within a workers' blood-red, hammer-and-sickle design.

There is every conceivable variety of that aggressive Sixties' addiction to the death of fashion: sloppy Joe jumpers, tired, shapeless nylon jackets; those near-hollow shit-brown tubes that once passed for trousers; the sagging holdalls worn transverse across the chest; loud checked shirts; beer-punch enhancing T-shirts long since edging off from white to grey; the grizzled beard; the short man in the absurdly long, shabby green corduroy jacket... do I see a suit anywhere?

What a ridiculous notion! Did not the surfer win away of its own accord in those days, having lost – like capitalism itself – all sense of purpose or occasion?

Yes, there is no denying the overall sense of excitement at the fact that they are all here together again, all these old men with shining eyes, recycling their long-ago triumphs in half-forgotten theoretical skirmishes. So much so, in fact, that it is quite difficult to squeeze one's way past and into the half itself for the great evening of collective remembrance.

The lights go off and on, and off. Then on again. And then, of a sudden, there is a great blast of martial music. Images of defining and heart-stirring proletarian moments, the Paris barricades, the Vietnam war, an image of Liberty; Marx and his family – are flashed on to the vast screen that sits amidst all the rest of the clutter on the stage.

Then something a little odder flashes up, the words "A New Was Not Born in a Day". Followed, of course, by two images of a smiling, foxy Red Ken. A tremendous cheer goes up, sticks are thrust vertically into the air, over and over again, like some primitive pumping mechanism.

Then John Saville shuffles on, bald, hawkish in profile, anciently professorial, one of the Founding Fathers of the *Socialist Register*. "Comrades and friends," he begins, and then continues, with inimitable socialist eloquence, gripping the mike like a man lashed to the tiller in a hard gale, "How pleasing it is to see a lot of us as against them..."

Saville is a man who occasionally forgets a fact – a name, a date – in that precise instant before he is due to deliver it. No matter. The audience knows it anyway, no matter how obscure. He refers to a certain "Dr Marx" as if he is an honorary member of the household. Then he speaks of the hallowed document itself, how it is "relevant to our situation in every jot and tittle..." "Here! Here!" responds the eager audience, already in revivalist mood.

Next, the compere, Roland Mukundan, founder of the Hackney Empire, breezes on, a man of casually affable, barrow-boy manner. Pushing his way past a table piled high with bottles and glasses, he opens a door at the back of the stage and calls out: "We're ready."

Various actors and actresses stream out, clutching black folders, and proceed to read from a tremendously long script about the birth of the Great Movement, the writing of the manifesto, the revolutions of 1848, and other pertinent matters. Tony Garbett sombre, if not subdued, as he reads about the revolt of the Silesian weavers, is wearing a well lived-in pair of denim jeans and the token red shirt. The actresses – Jaquette May, Maggie Steed

Julie Christie recites a poem by Pablo Neruda, and (below) the rousing Raised Voices Choir performs

Photographs: Tony Buckingham  
seems to be making alarming fist-fucking gestures in the direction of her singers. I close my eyes again, momentarily alarmed.

When I next wake up, as if by magic, Julie Christie is swinging across the stage in a well-tailored blue-blouse – suit and brilliant white tennis shoes, clutching some bits of paper. She makes a characteristically actressy meal of a couple of indifferent poems by Pablo Neruda that I have been reading ever since in memory of this precious occasion. One of them is about the Standard Oil Company.

When a photographer, crouching beside the stage, clicks his camera, she swivels in his direction and plonks a gorgeous arm on her hip. Her white shirt is open at the neck, though chastely so. The spots are playing on, maybe teasing with, her oh-so-carefully tousled blonde highlights. At this moment, I feel radical stirrings that I had not expected to feel, not on such a night as this. I think I may need a little urgent medication, Dr Marx.



for the evening's good. As if they are, perhaps, mere hired voices. It is at this point that I fall asleep.

When I wake up, the Raised Voices Choir – two dozen earnest men and women in red T-shirts – is singing a

tremendously rousing piece about some strike at a Massachusetts textile mill. One of the women is clutching a pretty, dolly baby to her chest. The female conductor with the wet-lock ringlets, spectacles steaming with concentration,

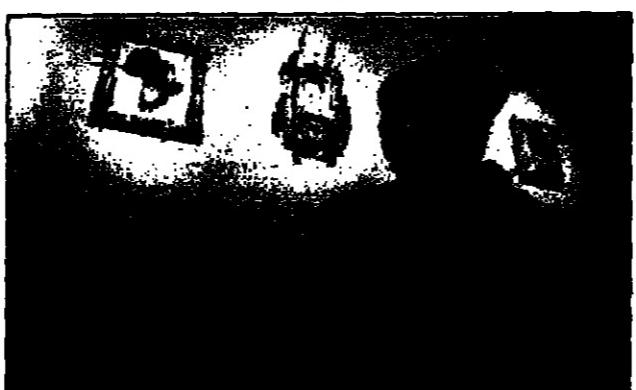
## Back to reggae's roots

"WHEN you look at rock, and you look behind rock, you see that there are all those tributaries and streams feeding into it which are the roots of rock: blues, R&B, jazz, soul, reggae, country," says Steve Barrow, a man who has spent more than 30 years passionately championing the often ignored but innovative spirit of reggae while battling against musical mediocrity.

With a combination of both humour and disgust, he adds: "When you check Celine Dion, for example, who relates to that? You can't, really, on an emotional level. You think you can, but you're kidding yourself because it's a pastiche emotion, a synthetic emotion. Synthetic emotion is one of the biggest sellers in the world."

Although Steve Barrow compiled over 70 reggae albums for Trojan Records in the late 1980s, it is with Blood and Fire Records that he has really moulded a company that conscientiously reappraises reggae of the 1970s, giving the music its overdue credit as a creative force.

Each release by Blood and Fire, which was founded in 1993, is stunningly packaged and contains a 16-page booklet. The premise of the company is to approach reggae in a scholarly manner, clarify the opaque history of the music and destroy the image of reggae as cheap and disposable. Barrow admits: "We spend more money than a lot of people spend on current rock acts". The label's undeniable success can be gauged by the



give it a little bit of promotion and see where it took us. And it took off." With contacts in Jamaica, like Bunny Lee, who Barrow describes as "the father of Blood and Fire", the label has continued to unearth rare music, releasing albums based around the consummate work of Glen Brown, King Tubby, Eppa Zukie and Keith Hudson, among others.

With the assistance of the innovative designers, Intro, the label tentatively released its first collection, *If DJ Was Your Trade*. The compilation was deliberately unfashionable. "It was to see if we could sell something as unromantic as DJ music, well past its sell-by date, and that there was no real interest in outside of collector's circles, to see if we could package it nicely and

IN THE EYE: VISUAL ARTS & REVIEWS

Mr Music: Steve Barrow (left) and two examples of Blood and Fire's distinctive packaging (below)

Main photograph: Rui Xavier

compilations because, as Barrow explains: "Dub is really part of the modern musical vocabulary... The great dub engineers like Tubby, Jammy, Scientist, even 'Scratch', they've taught us to appreciate the drum and bass."

The label's forthcoming release is called *Forward The Bass: Dub From Randy's, 1972-1976*, an album that was originally released in very small quantities. Randy's recording studio was created in 1969 by the Chin family, who Steve Barrow describes as "the most innovative Chinese business family in Jamaica". Bob Marley and The Wailers recorded some of their early albums there, with producer Lee "Scratch" Perry.

Now one of reggae's most energetic authorities, Barrow is not just providing music for the already converted: "There's an old school that just bangs things out... that philosophy isn't for us. We want to sell it to people who don't know it. We know the fans love it, but we want people who have never heard it before, as well, because it's great music. If they're into music they should like it."

*Forward The Bass: Dub From Randy's, 1972-1976* is released on 25 May.

James Maycock

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## Spies, helicopters and high politics

WHEN THE newspaper that Downing Street takes really seriously, the *Sun*, uncharacteristically devoted four pages to Sierra Leone yesterday it didn't take long for the Prime Minister to decide that he needed to stamp his authority on events. Mr Blair tried to dismiss the controversy over the role played by British officials in the coup in Sierra Leone as a lot of "hoo-ha". Behind this dismissal Mr Blair probably recognises that the Sierra Leone affair is the most substantial crisis to affect his administration, with much less froth than previous squalls. How much lasting damage will be done depends on how events will run, and this resolves itself into the question of Robin Cook's survival.

Mr Cook wanted to hide behind the Customs and Excise and Foreign Office enquiries, which will take weeks, maybe months, to complete. He obviously hoped that these would buy him some political time. They haven't. This story has a sex appeal about it with its high politics, spies, helicopters and "dogs of war". *Hansard* meets Dr No. Plenty of the players involved seem willing to provide momentum for it. It will not go away.

The Prime Minister recognised that he, Mr Cook, and the rest of the government had nothing to look forward to but a long debilitating summer of fresh questions, revelations, and harassment from the press. He also saw that the credibility of observers was being stretched by Mr Cook's claims that ministers had no knowledge of what was being done by their officials. Hence the decision to take the handling of the affair out of the hands of his Foreign Secretary and his dramatic change of defence: "Don't let us forget that what was happening was that the UN and the UK were both trying to help the democratic regime restore its position from an illegal military coup. They were quite right to do it." This sounds dangerously close to a preparation of the ground for the time when he has to admit that official involvement or ministerial knowledge were all justified by a moral, indeed ethical, cause. This was the defence that could have been deployed at the very beginning of the crisis. Mr Blair would be loath to sack Mr Cook, but he must be getting tired of the presentational disasters.

## Israel's peace is in Clinton's interests

THE NEXT few days are a defining moment for Bill Clinton's presidency. Forget Monica Lewinsky, and his term of office has been associated with remarkable economic prosperity, although that is due as much to what he has not done - not mucked up a working formula - as what he has.

His big chance comes with Israel. Mr Clinton has no more elections to fight. He has no further need of Democratic Party money-bags. Now is the time for him to consider his place in the history books and - for once - secure the breakthrough needed by treating Israel like any other foreign policy question. The deciding factor has to be the interests of the United States. And they require some kind of regional settlement in the Middle East, which depends on progress in negotiation between Israel and the Palestinian proto-state headed by Yasser Arafat. The only way forward now is Israeli concession, most immediately on the volume of West Bank land to be relinquished. The Netanyahu government won't move unless Washington pushes, and hard.

It is not a question of a president having to face down the pro-Israel lobby that has been so powerful in Congress and White House. It is a matter of the President of the United States equating his country's long-run interests with those of Israel at peace and arguing - to domestic audiences - that these interests are not represented by the stand now being taken by this prime minister, whose electoral mandate is after all so slim.

Israel's dependence on American goodwill remains axiomatic. The Netanyahu administration has budgets to make, a central banker to live with, exporters to keep sweet. Israeli politics are not a field of sweet reason, to be sure. But the more extreme the response of Israeli fundamentalists, the more President Clinton will be able to prove to Americans - including the Jewish community - just how alien Israeli zealotry has become.

He must make clear that threatening to cut off supplies serves no cause but Israel's own: there is no policy - Netanyahu certainly has not even begun to characterise one - that does not involve at some stage accommodation with and hence minimal trust in a Palestinian political entity with its own security responsibilities. If Israel has to be forced into it, Mr Clinton earns his stature.

## Youth's puerile hero

DOES "young Britain" really see Chris Evans as the best person to represent its interests?

It is, if true, a distressing revelation. The Industrial Society, who brought us this news, tell us that young people cite a number of reasons as to why Mr Evans would be a good Minister for Youth. He is said to have a reputation for speaking out. It is, though, a pity that this is based on elevating the f-word into a marketing tool. He has, we are asked to believe, a great sense of humour. Fine, if you want to encourage children to poke fun at "ugly" people. Most importantly, he is supposed to be "in touch" with young people. He has made sure he is. His comedy is puerile - trivial, immature and childish.

Chris Evans is certainly dedicated to self-propaganda. He is famous, tedious about his wealth and notoriously nude. But is Mr Evans really the choice of youth? Let us look more closely at the evidence. Just 600 young people were polled, of whom only 50 plumped for Evans. It may well be that the poll is as unreliable as Chris Evans himself.

## Man bites dog. But only in self-defence



MILES  
KINGTON

A MOST curious trial is going on in a London court at the moment, in which a postman is accused of biting a dog. The action is being brought under the little-used Domestic Animals Protection Act (1923) which was originally passed to stamp out cruelty in the RSPCA, but which is thought never to have been previously used against a postman.

Here is an extract from the fascinating proceedings.

Counsel: Now, Mr Watt, you are a postman?  
Postman: I am.  
Counsel: I believe that one of the hazards of a postman's life is canine assault.  
Postman: It is.

Counsel: And what precautions can be taken against it?  
Postman: Many things have been tried. Dog-proof trousers, anti-dog spray, a stout stick, a whistle designed to repel dogs...

Counsel: Which one of these measures have you adopted?  
Postman: None.

Counsel: So what do you do when faced with a hostile dog?

Postman: I bring my own dog into play.

Counsel: Ah! You own a dog of your own?

Postman: That is correct. Early in my career as a postman, after several episodes of being bitten by dogs, I decided to fight fire with fire, and to acquire my own fierce dog. Accordingly, I bought a bulldog which I took on my rounds with me. Whenever I entered a garden or property with a hostile dog on the premises, I would bring Profumo...

Counsel: Profumo? That is the name of the bulldog.

Postman: Yes. That is the name of the bulldog.

Judge: Most unusual name, Mr Watt. Was it named after John Profumo?

Postman: Who, sir?

Judge: Never mind. Carry on.

Counsel: If I were faced with a fierce dog, I would bring in Profumo and set him on the opposition. That always did the trick.

Counsel: So Profumo was never worsted in battle?

Postman: No, sir, though he once fought a close draw with a *cavistif* in Willesden, called Rab Butler.

Counsel: Now, tell us what happened on the morning of 17 July last year.

Postman: The day dawned bright and early, though clouds started to form before half past five. I had a boiled egg for breakfast, with two pieces of toast...

Counsel: I don't mean everything that happened on that morning. Just what is relevant to this case?

Postman: Ah. Well, at about 9.40am I entered the garden of 4 Macmillan Road, carrying a pile of letters. I did not take Profumo in with me, as I knew there to be no dog at No 4, and I tied Profumo up outside.

What I did not know was that over the weekend the owners of No 4 had bought a spaniel. It was not trained, and attacked me. Without Profumo to aid me, I was panicked and without thinking I did what Profumo would have done.

Counsel: You sank your teeth in the spaniel?

Postman: Yes.

Counsel: Causing injuries which have produced a limp to this day?

Postman: No. I was not hurt at all.

Counsel: I am thinking of the dog.

Postman: That is what most people do. Nobody thinks of the poor postman.

Judge: I dread to ask this question, but what was the name of the spaniel?

Postman: I believe it was Cliveden, sir.

Judge: Good Lord. Carry on.

Counsel: Do you really think you were justified in attacking the dog?

Postman: I did not attack him. I defend

ed myself. Those of you who have never been a postman do not realise under what constant threat we are. I have been attacked by cats, by birds, by barbed wire, by trees, by householders who were furious that the expected letter had not arrived, by householders who were furious that the expected bill HAD arrived... On one occasion I was even attacked by a female snake. Small wonder if occasionally we give way to our human nature and retaliate. Is a postman not also human? If you bite us, do we not bleed? (Huge applause from public gallery, which is crowded with postmen.)

Judge: I probably should not ask this, but was the snake called Christine?

Postman: No, sir.

Judge: Thank heaven for that.

Postman: It was called Mandy, sir.

The case continues.

الآن من الأصل

HOWARD TAKES TO THE MORAL HIGH GROUND....



## LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number  
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

1. If the British government was so confident that the rightful administration had to be restored to power in Sierra Leone, why didn't they use the UK's regular armed forces instead of covertly hiring a group of mercenaries to do some gun-running against UN sanctions?

2. What is the difference between breaking an arms embargo on Sierra Leone and breaking one on Iraq or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia?

P WILLIAMS  
*Limassol, Cyprus*

Protect the unborn child

Sir: The Court of Appeal may have, for the time being, resolved the legal issues relating to the refusal of Ms S ("Mothers win right to refuse Caesareans", 8 May) but it totally disregarded the ethical issues, which will not go away.

Consider the following scenarios. In the first, a woman goes into labour at eight months but the previously healthy baby shows signs of severe distress and a Caesarean section is advised to save the baby's life. The mother refuses, on the grounds that it will interfere with the natural process of birth which she has always wanted. Several hours later the baby is born dead. In the second, a woman goes into labour at eight months and delivers a healthy baby which she does not want. Before it can start to breathe, she smothers it and is later charged with murder.

These cases are extreme but they can and do occur, and if they throw up issues which the law cannot deal with in a logical and morally responsible way, then the law needs to be changed. A mature foetus is a sentient being - aware of its surroundings, able to hear and feel pain.

Surely it is due some protection in a civilised society.

Dr RICHARD STANLEY  
*Baldock, Hertfordshire*

Sir: I grow increasingly weary of the accusations of arrogance levelled against the profession. I joined nine years ago as a well-meaning and enthusiastic 24-year-old. I am ground down by the increasingly litigious nature of the doctor-patient relationship.

In your leading article (8 May), you present a story of a depressed, probably socially and emotionally isolated woman with unconventional but firmly held views which are highly likely to end in her and her baby's death in a pregnancy with which she was unhappy. How would you help her? Pre-eclampsia is one of a few genuine medical emergencies. It seems you would favour gently counselling her by her bedside while she died, fitting uncontrollably.

"What she got was Cauch-22,"

you say. Try my headline: "Depressed and seriously ill mother-to-be and baby left to die in a van on her way to give birth in a barn in Wales - family to sue doctors". Can you understand why the profession feels up against the wall at times? Get sued, whichever way you turn. As a GP, I can tell you that life is full of "Catch-22s". Blame is almost never neatly apportioned.

Dr RICHARD STANLEY  
*Baldock, Hertfordshire*

The best way to vote

Sir: Donald MacIntyre suggests (Comment, 8 May) that the Alternative Vote (AV) offers a middle course on electoral reform which should be supported by Liberal Democrats.

AV does not provide for proportionality. As Donald MacIntyre says, in 1997 AV would have produced an even less proportional result than first-past-the-post.

A two-stage approach to electoral reform with AV being introduced for the next election and top-up lists being added after boundary changes is also suggested (AV-plus). This is likely to be more costly than a one-step reform and may lead to an increased

number of MPs if proportionality is to be achieved. More MPs would be both unpopular and unjustified.

Liberal Democrats favour the single transferable vote (STV) as the system best able to meet the terms of reference of the Jenkins Commission.

STV could be introduced at the next election without a lengthy Boundary Commission review by simply aggregating existing seats based on natural communities such as cities. STV maximises voter choice, allows preferential voting and could maintain the constituency link, by the use of multi-member natural constituencies.

AV is not a proportional system, and does not therefore meet the remit of the Jenkins Commission. AV-plus may be more proportional than AV, but there is a system that better meets the remit of the Commission in STV.

ROBERT MACLENNAN MP  
*(Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross; Lib Dem)*  
*House of Commons*  
*The writer is Liberal Democrat Constitutional Affairs Spokesman*

Treating depression

Sir: In Hamish McRae's analysis of the future of the pharmaceutical industry (Comment, 6 May) he helpfully compares Prozac, an antidepressant drug, with Viagra, a new treatment for impotence, implying that both are treatments with dubious medical justification for non-serious disorders.

Whilst there is obviously more to the treatment of depression than medications such as Prozac, the suggestion that this disabling yet treatable condition is somehow medically unimportant must not go unchallenged.

Dr RICHARD PRETTYMAN  
*Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry for the Elderly*  
*University of Leicester*

Sir: Anything which makes history more attractive to young people ought to be welcomed, but the latest EC-funded CD-Rom appears to confuse making the past accessible with sanitising it ("Swashbuckling Vikings are written out of history", 9 May).

In addition to pointing out the hardly surprising fact that Viking raiders had families and did not always eat well, the curator of Denmark's national museum, Anna Pedersen, apparently thinks the Vikings "have been victims of a bad press... They might have pointed out that a lot of the places they took over were easy to attack!"

This type of rewriting of history makes the subject absurd. It could even become sinister. Imagine a 20th-century history CD-Rom explaining to schoolchildren that the Wehrmacht had had a bad press - after all, a lot of places Hitler took over did not put up any resistance, including Denmark.

MARK ALMOND  
*Oxford*

## Capital cat

Sir: Now that London is to have an elected mayor, would it not be an ideal opportunity to revive the historic tradition of Dick Whittington and have a cat as well? We had Humphrey at Number 10, but his role and status were never clear. Was he a civil servant - perhaps the first alderocrat?

Let us have a democratically elected, publicly accountable cat for the capital and for the millennium. I'm ready to kick off the "Yes" campaign with the slogan "Bring Back the Cat!"

JOHN LAMPER  
*Wareham, Dorset*

## Police presence?

Sir: David Blunkett's idea for the police to help return truants to school (report, 11 May) is, on the face of it, a good idea. However, when did you last see a bobby on the beat?

PETER BRINTON  
*Headteacher Roskear School  
Cambridge, Cornwall*

## Follow me into the living world of obituary reading



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

FROM TIME to time, it is the parts of newspapers that have nothing to do with the news that give the most pleasure. For some, this will be the crossword; for me it is the obituaries. I know that many readers skip over them.

The pleasures are very much the same as reading a good biography or novel. Obituary notices are often well written, particularly, if I may say so, in *The Independent*, where they are signed. Yet obituaries can be critical. Thus *The Daily Telegraph's* recent notice of Sir Alan Glyn, a former Tory MP, noted that he was "occasionally over-fussy", "too fond of the sound of his own voice" and that his constituency party had expected greater things of him. This caused Tam Dalyell MP to try to set the record straight in Saturday's *Independent*. "I fear," he sniffed, "that most current members of the House of Commons will remember Alan Glyn as a creaky, occasionally cantankerous old buffer. This is a pity."

Obituary notices transport you into a life you have never lived and perhaps could never have imagined. Take this account of the background of a Jesuit priest, Father Philip Carman, who has recently died: "His father was an Armenian banker from Smyrna (now Izmir) who had come to London to set up in business importing dried fruit from the Levant. His mother was of Italian descent. Both were devout Catholics: they had their own private chapel, and of their nine children two became priests and two nuns." These lines might have been taken from the opening page of a 19th-century novel. In fact, Father Carman is remembered because of his literary gifts and friendships with writers such as Evelyn Waugh. He received both Edith Sitwell and Muriel Spark in the Roman Catholic Church, but later, when he was sent to Norway, he failed to make a single convert in five years.

A staple of obituary notices these days is the war hero. The brave young men and women of the 1940s are now in their late seventies or eighties. Few of them had been in the services before the war. They were volunteers or conscripts. Much like today, they started out in life as young lawyers or trainee doctors. But then – and this is why it is worth reading accounts of their lives – they suddenly found themselves at war for five years. Afterwards they generally went back to what they had been doing in peace-time and carried on as if nothing had happened.

Their war exploits alone earn them full obituaries. Mr Thomas Simpson, who recently died aged 80, resumed his law studies in 1944 in his native Australia. But it is what he achieved in 1943 and 1944, in his mid-twenties, flying in bomber squadrons over Germany – once making 13 passes above the Dortmund-Ems Canal at only 150ft in fog, always under attack – that earned him a DFC.

and a sizeable notice in the *Daily Telegraph*. The article was headlined with his war-time rank, Flight Lieutenant "Tammy" Simpson.

Almost as frequently as you find the life of a war hero, you read about musicians of the same period, often somebody who played with Benny Goodman or Glen Miller. Indeed, Mel Powell, who recently died in Los Angeles aged 75, was due to travel with Glen Miller and his Army Airforce Orchestra on the latter's fatal flight in December 1944, but was pulled off the plane at the last minute.

I confess I knew nothing of Mel Powell, but this is another service obituary notices perform: they educate. I learn Powell was one of a small group whose influence "was to permeate the music of the next 50 years". He was "one of the most broadly talented musicians of the century". And, indeed, he seems to have been. He was with Goodman for only five years. After the war he went to Hollywood and found "writing a gloss" rather boring. And so, in a remarkable switch, he went to Yale, studied composition under Hindemith, became a full professor and was renowned for his mastery of 12-tone technique; his work was performed in concert halls around the world.

But this is the recent accounts of the life of a lesser, British musician, Syd Lawrence, also a devotee of swing music, that I have found the most enthralling. His great gift as a band-leader was imitating the style of Miller. He seems to have taken his Miller pastiche to such a high level that the Miller family tried to sue him, unsuccessfully in the event.

His beginnings – born near Chester and playing a cornet in a brass band – chime with my own family background, although there the resemblance ends. After the war he got

**Obituary notices transport you into a life you have never lived, and perhaps never could have imagined**

jobs in London, but he couldn't stand the South East. He returned to Chester and, finding no work as a musician, started selling vacuum cleaners. Then he got into the BBC Northern Dance Orchestra and he was under way again. He was never part of the jazz aristocracy; he learned everything from the gramophone records of famous performers. But he found a niche by creating an orchestra which satisfied nostalgia for the music of the 1940s just when rock'n'roll seemed about to obliterate everything that had gone before.

Reading obituaries shows what is possible. In the past two weeks you could have learned what it was like to have started out as the child of Armenian parents living in London. Or to have suddenly found yourself at war. (I ask myself would I have acquired myself so well?) Musicians, we learn, can switch genres successfully. And even a life devoted to copying a past master – perhaps painting nothing but Constable-style landscapes – can bring pleasure to a lot of people.

## Unions should recognise that a brighter future awaits them outside New Labour



ANNE McELVOY

IT IS almost a relief to see the renegade left hoist the red flag in the trade unions. Having been castrated in Parliament, sidelined in their council heartlands by Lib Dem protest votes and mysteriously quiet (or gagged and bound) in local Labour parties, they had to be somewhere. The disappearances of Dave and Deirdre Spart was getting suspicious.

Now we know where they went. The Campaign for a Fighting and Democratic Union is agitating inside the public service union. The closeness of "democratic" and "fighting" betrays the twin influences of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party and the dog-ends of Militant. In the train drivers' Aslef, the General Secretary's job went to a Scargillite. The Communication Workers' Union, has shifted to the left by electing Derek Hodgson, a loyal Old Labour man, but not one likely to be found discussing the Third Way with Tony Blair over a plate of Hob Nobs at Number 10.

Now that the ambiguities of Opposition can no longer be preserved, New Labour treats the unions like aged, faintly unsavoury relatives whose existence is acknowledged by infrequent, guarded contacts. Mr Blair was never going to allow a resurgence of union power in Britain. He might as well have post-dated his own electoral death warrant. Hence, the setting of the minimum wage at the lowest end of expectations.

As for union recognition, the details will be hedged around with enough barriers and conditions to defend a citadel: the moderates will be accused of having failed their members, and the left will profit further. This is largely the fault of the TUC for making recognition the keystone of its relations with a Labour government.

The best advice in such a predicament comes from Marshall Foch in 1914: "My centre is giving way, my right is in retreat: situation excellent. I shall



This is no time for song: John Monks (centre), General Secretary of the TUC, at the 1997 conference PA

attack." The trade unions need to think again about what they are for, whom they serve and how. That demands as thorough and daring a reappraisal as any undertaken by the Blairites when they forged New Labour out of the compost of the Old.

But too many trade unionists embraced the return of a Labour government in the fond expectation that it would simply roll back the tide of hostility which engulfed them in the Thatcher years. It cost Mr Blair nothing to reinstate the unions at GCHQ. Signing the Social Chapter was a gesture towards the EU – the unions were incidental beneficiaries. But no sooner was the ink dry than he was warning the rest of Europe about the dangers of imposing "a burden of extra costs on employers". When it comes to economic models, Mr Blair does not quite know which way he is facing.

We can surmise, however, that he does not share the unfettered enthusiasm for the European social agenda embraced so fervently by John Monks at the TUC. Mr Monks venerated as a "model of civilised prosperity" the German trade unions. When it comes to their admiration for Germany, British union leaders

entertain a vision as obsolete as Lederhosen and oom-pah bands. The corporatism of post-war Germany is under attack and will not survive the next five years in its present form. In the East, employees regularly vote to bypass collective bargaining in order to maximise jobs.

There is no future for British trade unions in aping a failing German consensus.

Mr Monks is credited with coining the phrase "New Unionism" to reflect a shift away from militancy and towards co-operation. Beyond the name, innovations are few. The fatal flaw in the psyche of the unions is an abiding desire to win rights from government and wrest concessions from employers, instead of asking themselves what they might do themselves to stop the slide in membership and ensure that companies value them as assets.

New Labour, meanwhile, is snapping one strand of its union ties after another. Funding of the election campaign by the brothers dropped from 90 per cent in 1992 to 25 per cent in 1997. Less than a quarter of the party's annual funding comes from them, as opposed to half three years ago.

The institutional role of the unions delivers far more to Labour in terms of funding and

benefits in kind than it does to the trade unions. But they are astonishingly slow to see that they are being taken for a ride. If the unions put a fraction of the effort into widening their services to members that they put into arcane arguments about the impact of percentage thresholds for recognition, they would be better placed to stem the exodus of workers. The unions will only prosper, like any other volunteer association, if they offer people good reasons to be members.

In an uncertain world, they could begin to do so by rediscovering the mutualism of their co-operative roots. Blue-collar workers are more vulnerable to the decline in public services.

They often lack the time, the means and the skills to adapt the way they plan their savings and other provisions to rapidly changing circumstances.

New Labour, meanwhile,

is

more collectivist in their thinking than much of New Labour – would be the obvious place to start. In a devolved Scotland, there would be a rich seam in making common cause with the galloping SNP.

Truly independent trade unions would have far more chance of influencing Government than those formally, but ineffectually, linked to Labour. They should grasp the chance to reinvent themselves as a campaigning, supportive network, ensuring minimum conditions for the dignity and well-being of working people – in other words, the reason they were formed in the first place.

## Posh luvvie projects look for an alternative to public subsidy



ROSIE MILLARD

APPARENTLY, Kent is a desert. The county fondly known as the Garden of England should be rechristened the Gobi of England. "Artistically speaking, of course," said the eminent barrister John Macdonald QC, who is also chairman of Kent Opera.

Kent Opera has something of a chequered past. Its Arts Council grant was abolished a few years ago, whereupon, after a huge outcry, it abolished itself. Now it plans to ascend from the ashes, an oasis in the desert that is Kent.

"Our next production is Monteverdi's *Orfeo*," announced Mr Macdonald, at a champagne-fuelled press conference in his elegant Lincoln's Inn chambers. "But as

we return from the underworld, we will not be looking back to see whether our former funding bodies will be following us." He paused, to enable our rather slower minds to get the joke. "We are not afraid of helping ourselves."

Kent Opera, like so many other arts bodies across the country, has realised it is pointless bleeding for subsidy. During the 'Tory years, when they weren't chanting "Thatcher! Out!", arts companies were forever banging on about more subsidy. However, as soon as Thatcher and her gang were indeed ousted, everything all went quiet on the funding appeal front. For arts people knew that al-

though Conservatives weren't exactly spendthrifts, they were more likely to wave through dough for posh luvvie projects than Labour, historically nervous of arts subsidy.

The Government is thrilled to support schemes such as Arts For Everyone, which extends that magical concept of "access". But money for excellence might also mean – dare I say it – elitism? Forget it. High culture is simply not welcome on the grant application form.

So Kent Opera has dumped the begging bowl and come up with a sort of Blairite stakeholding number. You, the opera buff, donate £100. In return you get one free ticket and the sneaky gratification

that you are helping the highly un-PC art form of opera. It is rather like sponsoring an elephant at London Zoo, except you get a selection of arias rather than a waving trunk.

The war artist John Keane has had the same idea. I received a letter from him the other day asking for £100 to help with his commercial rates bill; in return you receive a limited-edition print. Keane has written to 60 art lovers and had cheques from more than half, including people like Harold Pinter.

What inspired self-help this is, one thinks. Except that you can only pull this stunt once. Keane's rates will go on and on, but how much wall space has Pinter got? He

may be a fan, but does he want a Keane artwork every year for the next decade?

And exclusive private support has its own artistic thorns. Kent Opera may well build up a brigade of opera lovers thirsting for decent shows outside London. However, in return, the company formerly headed by that iconoclast Michael Tippett may have to put on productions that sponsors will want to use their freebies on.

And because people are happiest with familiarity, traditional operas will always have the edge. But endless productions of *Figaro* or *La Traviata* will not turn Kent into the artistic hotbed it has the potential to become.

## Homeboys

WHILE charity begins at home, surely crime prevention should start at the Home Office. Perhaps this was Liberal Democratic MP Ronnie Fearn's motivation when he asked Home Secretary Jack Straw last month for a list of all the equipment stolen from his department over the past five years. The list makes amazing reading. About £275,000 worth of computers, IT equipment, vehicles, camcorders and other goods have fallen off the back of the Home Office lorry since 1993, with by far the worst losses taking place between 1995-97, during Michael Howard's regime. Pandora was particularly struck by the theft of so much gardening equipment, including a tractor, lawnmower and brush cutter, plus many power tools. Who are

## PANDORA

all these people who seem to be confusing the Home Office with their local Homebase DIY stores and why can't they be stopped?

### Lottery landmine

WHAT do Joan Armatrading, Tim Henman, Will Self, Limford Christie, Sir Terence Conran and David Hockney have in common? They are all contributors of "celebrity hand prints and photographs" to a book sponsored by Camelot on behalf of something called the Handlines Project. A reception is being held on 1 June at a Mayfair art gallery; its stated purpose is to support the ban on landmines.

Oddly, the invitation was put out on a Camelot letterhead addressed – not to this newspaper's arts editor – but

### Deep blue

EVERTON'S escape from relegation out of the Premiership had at least two employees of the Government in a celebratory mood yesterday. Peter Kilfoyle at the Cabinet Office and Joe Irvin, John Prescott's special advisor, are both zealous Toofie supporters. Norman

## Tory druggies

YESTERDAY'S debate in the House of Commons on the second reading of the Competition Bill ostensibly pitted Labour's DTI minister, Margaret Beckett, against her Tory opposite, John Redwood. Behind the scenes, however, the real conflict is entirely on the Tory benches between Redwood and Archie Norman, MP and vice-chairman of the Conservative Party. At issue is Redwood's wish to protect the nation's small pharmacies against a move by national supermarket chains which want to sell over-the-counter non-prescription drugs at a discounted price. The supermarket which pioneered this commercial strategy is Asda, whose former chairman is, of course, Archie Norman.

## Star wars

PERHAPS young Hollywood hotshots would be wise to avoid the mean streets of Manhattan. In recent months, director Quentin Tarantino has allegedly been involved in several bar brawls in New York that have resulted in multi-million-dollar lawsuits being lodged against the former video shop clerk. Now Leonardo DiCaprio has been an uncomfortably close witness to a street fight involving another actor and screenwriter outside fashionable Morgan's Hotel. The key evidence – a security videotape – is being withheld by the nearby Polish Consulate on the grounds of diplomatic immunity. Pandora was relieved to hear that DiCaprio was back in Hollywood this weekend, looking for a suitable Bel Air mansion.

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## William Newland

THE POTTER William Newland had bold theories about clay and creativity which he often planned to write down. Now we will never read his thoughts on the Great Kneadie (Newland's term for a basic pattern found on prehistoric pots excavated in the Euphrates) and on the origins of graffiti.

But his work remains, an array of prancing thrown-and-assembled tin-glazed bulls with curved horns, handsome thrown platters on which he drew mythological scenes, proud press-moulded cockrels and great press-moulded dishes slip-painted with big birds and Matissean heads.

Newland was born in 1919 at Masterton in the Wairarapa, the premier sheep-farming area of North Island, New Zealand, and his voice never lost a slight, musical Kiwi twang. His grandfather had jumped ship in 1870 and went up into the hills behind Wellington to start the settlement known as Newlands. His father was a sheep and cattle drover and a stock buyer.

By the age of 13 Newland was a drover too, with a horse and five dogs, able to keep a thousand sheep together and on the move. During the Depression he and his brother ran a butcher's shop in Masterton and he attended evening classes in drawing. When the Second World War broke out he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and served in Greece and the Middle East followed by three years as a prisoner of war in Italy and Germany.

In a PoW camp at Gorlitz in Sudentland he met white Russians—"marvellous men, artists and architects"—and studied Klimt's *Nicolaeles' The Natural Way to Draw* (1941), an inspirational book filled with reproductions of the world's most beautiful drawings from both East and West. Newland began to paint and draw his fellow prisoners with crayons and paints sent by the Red Cross.

From 1945 until 1947 he

studied painting at Chelsea School of Art, going on, as part of an agreement he made with the New Zealand government, to train as a teacher at the Institute of Education, at London University. There he discovered a remarkable natural facility with clay, attending Dora Billington's classes at the Central School of Arts and Crafts and reading Marion Richardson on education and art.

He saw himself doing for ceramics what Richardson had done for painting in schools. In ceramic terms this meant a healthy suspicion of the certainties of Bernard Leach's overnight 1940 classic *A Potter's Book*.

Newland did not like the idea of "sitting at Bloomsbury painting bamboo leaves on pots with a Chinese brush". In 1948 he became a lecturer at the Institute and also gave evening classes at Central.

His energy and ability drew numerous painters taking an art teacher's diploma to ceramics. Margaret Hine (whom he married in 1950), Nicholas Vergeote, James Tower, John Reeve and Ian Auld were all taught by Newland and all went on to become potters of the first rank.

Like many British artists after the Second World War, Newland looked south for inspiration, immersing himself in Mediterranean culture, ancient and modern. In 1949 he travelled in Spain with Margaret Hine and Nicholas Vergeote, studying country potters and paying a visit to Malaga to look at tin-glazed Hispano-Moresque wares.

Tin-glaze and the casual light-hearted beauties of Picasso's ceramics came to represent an alternative to the solemn aesthetic of neo-Oriental stoneware. Newland, Hine and Vergeote's 1954 show at the Studio Club in Swallow Street revealed the strong influence of Picasso combined with long hours in the British Museum studying Tang horses and clay figures from Tarentum.

As a member of Sir John Summerson's National Council for Diplomas in Art and Design (NCDAD) Newland also

studied painting at Chelsea School of Art, going on, as part of an agreement he made with the New Zealand government, to train as a teacher at the Institute of Education, at London University. There he discovered a remarkable natural facility with clay, attending Dora Billington's classes at the Central School of Arts and Crafts and reading Marion Richardson on education and art.

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'Tactile knowing': Newland with Rooster, terracotta, 1995

Photograph: Ed Barber

played a crucial part in the encouragement of ceramics in art schools after 1962. In recent years, to Newland's sorrow, there has been no specialist pottery instructor at the institute.

Developments in education in the 1990s, especially the shift away from material-based teaching in schools, caused him much concern. Just after the war it was different:

Everyone was full of enthusiasm. We all thought that we were going to change the world. This sort of spirit was in the clay, it was in the paint, in the teaching of painting, in the teaching of craft. Kids were going to paint if they wanted to, pot if they wanted to, weave, book-bind...

After retirement from full-time work at the institute in 1982 he continued to run the Bedford Way Gallery in the foyer of the Institute of Education. This was very much his creation.

Newland remained a dash-

ing figure to the end, fond of a rolled cigarette and a glass of red wine. He was a keen gardener and a superb cook. He embodied that optimistic post-war spirit which perceived the practice of all the arts as a peaceful civilised reparation for the miseries and trauma of war. He leaves a daughter, Sally, an illustrator and painter, and a son, Jeremy, a potter.

Tariya Harrod

Rupert William Newland, potter and teacher; born Masterton, New Zealand 5 February 1919; Lecturer, Institute of Education, London University, part-time 1949-60, 1986-92, full-time 1962-86; Tutor, Central School of Arts and Crafts 1949-60; married 1950 Margaret Hine (died 1997; one son, one daughter); died High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire 30 April 1998.

from the legendary Howard Hughes, but no wrongdoing was ever proven. Quietly, Rebozo would raise money to help meet the legal expenses of close Nixon retainers like John Erlichman. Never, even in the darkest days, did his loyalty waver.

Few days were darker than 1 August 1974. The Supreme Court had forced Nixon to hand over the "smoking gun" Watergate tapes and, two days earlier, the House Judiciary Committee had voted the first two articles of impeachment. Rebozo flew up from Miami to Washington to join Nixon, and at 7pm that evening the two men boarded the *Sequoia*.

As they cruised the Potomac river, Nixon told him he had decided to resign. "You can't do it," Rebozo replied. "You have got to continue to fight. You just don't know how many people are still for you." But ultimately even the unbearably loyal Rebozo was persuaded that there was no alternative. Exactly a week later, facing certain impeachment, the 37th President stepped down.

If anything, in the bleak aftermath of disgrace, Rebozo's friendship became more valuable still. Nothing cheered Nixon up more than his presence at a surprise 62nd birthday party organised by his wife Pat at San Clemente on 9 January 1975, where the former President was moved to insist one of the few constants.

In good times as well as bad – in Washington, at the presidential retreat of Camp David, at the "winter White House" in Key Biscayne, on the presidential yacht *Sequoia* – he was cronies, confidant and drinking partner to the man he would until the end of his life address as "Mr President". Nixon was a political chameleon who could adopt a dozen personalities but, as his former aide Bill Safire would write, "When he didn't want to be anyone but himself, he called for Bebe Rebozo."

If friendship is forged in adversity, nothing sealed this one as Watergate. Though he was never a political or policy adviser in any formal sense, Rebozo's sheer proximity to Nixon made him a target of investigators. He was questioned by Sam Ervin's Senate Select Committee, for having accepted a cash contribution of \$100,000 to the Nixon campaign

Charles Gregory ("Bebe") Rebozo, banker and businessman; born Tampa, Florida 17 November 1912; married; died Miami, Florida 8 May 1998.

Rupert Cornwell



Spectacularly generous: Donald Mackay Shaw

## Lord Craigmyle

AN AMERICAN who created a name for himself at the post-war Oxford Union thus began his maiden speech: "After a team and a half, Mr President Sir, I feel I have made it. I am on first-name terms with the Editor of the *Isis* and the Lord Craigmyle."

The fact that Donald Craigmyle—"Craigie" to most of his many friends – was distinctly one of the "personalities" of the Oxford of this period represented the successful resolution of a serious personal problem. He was torn between acute shyness and an intense love of people and life. He suffered from this, far from rare, conflict in a much more painful sense than do most people, and it never really left him. The successful manner, however, in which he came to terms with it was at least, to a great extent, to his many considerable achievements in later life.

Thomas Donald Mackay Shaw was born in 1923, and became the third Lord Craigmyle on the death of his father in 1944. (The first, ennobled in 1929, had been another Thomas Shaw, a former Lord Advocate of Scotland.) The previous year,

he had joined the RNVR as

an ordinary seaman. Over

the next 10 years he served in

the Royal Navy, the Royal Air

Force and the Royal Artillery.

He then became a member of

the Royal Household, and

was appointed a Gentleman

of the Bedchamber to King

George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

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## Official figures confirm recession in manufacturing

By Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

**MANUFACTURING** output fell for the second successive quarter in January to March, according to official figures yesterday. The decline, although small, put it technically into recession, confirming fears about the damage being done to industry by the strength of the pound.

A separate survey of retail sales last month suggested consumer spending might be slowing. Alongside figures showing that inflation at the factory gate is non-

existent, yesterday's batch of evidence was cheering news for those hoping for no further rise in interest rates.

More light on the interest rate debate will be shed by the publication tomorrow of the Bank of England's quarterly Inflation Report and of the latest figures on earnings and unemployment. The danger of overheating in the jobs market poses the biggest remaining risk on the inflation front.

Manufacturing output was flat in March, and fell 0.1 per cent in the first quarter of the year. Total industrial pro-

duction, of which manufacturing is the biggest component, fell 0.3 per cent after a drop of nearly 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of last year.

A bounce in oil and gas extraction and the output of the electricity, gas and water industries in March took total production unexpectedly higher during the month. But the underlying annual growth rate in both manufacturing and industry as a whole was little above zero.

Only the engineering industry has withstood recession. Its output climbed 1.9 per cent in the first quarter to a level 3.6

per cent higher than a year ago. In contrast, textiles production fell 2.2 per cent to stand 6.8 per cent below its level a year earlier.

Separate figures showed a further fall in the cost of manufacturers' raw materials in April. They were down 0.9 per cent during the month and 9.0 per cent year-on-year.

The fact that input costs have been falling for more than two years – thanks in large part to the rising pound – has allowed industry to offset rising labour costs and keep prices charged at the fac-

tory gate little changed. Output prices rose 0.1 per cent in April, and 1 per cent year-on-year. But much of that rise was due to the increase in excise duties announced in March's Budget.

One question mark hanging over the outlook for the Government's target measure of inflation, the retail price index less mortgage interest costs, is what will happen to prices at the factory gate if the pound falls even further. It has shed 20 pence since hitting its peak of DM3.10 last month.

Another concern is the pace of consumer

spending, which has so far kept retail price inflation stubbornly above its target. The latest survey by the British Retail Consortium showed a bounce in sales in April following a very subdued March.

However, the BRC said taking the two months together suggested a slowdown in the growth of high street spending had begun. The value of sales on a like-for-like basis rose 5.7 per cent in the year to April, up from just 0.4 per cent the previous month. But adjusting for the late Easter this year by taking the two months together suggested sales growth had slowed.

## Seagram in talks with PolyGram

By Nigel Cope  
Associate City Editor

**SEAGRAM**, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group whose takeover talks with EMI were abruptly terminated by the British company last week, has switched its attentions to PolyGram, the world's largest music group whose roster of artists includes Elton John, Bon Jovi and Luciano Pavarotti.

Insiders say talks are well-advanced and that a deal could be possible within weeks, valuing the Dutch-based business at \$9bn-\$10bn (£5.4bn-£6bn).

Neither side would comment yesterday but it is understood that discussions about a deal have been taking place between the two companies' advisers. Morgan Stanley is acting for Seagram, with Goldman Sachs advising PolyGram.

A deal would transform Seagram's music interests as its Universal/MCA operations are currently ranked a distant sixth in the big league of global music companies behind concerns such as PolyGram, Time Warner, EMI and Bertelsmann. Seagram's interest was prompted by last week's announcement from Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, which said it was considering its options over its 75 per cent stake in the busi-

ness. EMI's decision to terminate discussions with Seagram because no firm offer had been received would have provided a further catalyst.

Analysts said a deal between Seagram and PolyGram would be logical, as the two companies have complementary portfolios. MCA's main strength is in the US but it is weak in Europe, where PolyGram is a major player.

"It would make sense but not quite as much sense as a Seagram deal with EMI," said one analyst. He pointed out that PolyGram's top management might not be so keen to step aside whereas EMI had already restructured its top positions and currently had no chief executive.

Another said the deal would be "like two drunks leaning against each other for support" as neither MCA nor PolyGram is performing well.

In February PolyGram reported a 9 per cent rise in net revenue to 787m guilders (£246m) but said it had been affected by the slowdown in music sales and the impact of economic turmoil in the Far East.

Edgar Bronfman, Seagram's chief executive officer, has been under increasing pressure from investors who say it was the Canadians who took the initiative.

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have been unimpressed by Seagram's sale of its big stake in DuPont, the US chemicals business, to finance the \$5.7bn purchase of MCA in 1995.

Mr Bronfman, though, feels people simply don't understand him. He complained at an industry conference in New York in March that some people still believe he bought Universal three years only so he could pursue his side career as a songwriter. His credits include the theme song for last year's Sylvester Stallone film *Daylight*.

But it is clear that Seagram has been having a tough time.

Two films that Universal was banking on, *Primary Colors* and *Mercury Rising*, bombed, leading to the departure of several top executives. And the company's main spirits and Tropicana juice business is under pressure in Asia, one of its main markets.

"I give him an F" for being attuned to shareholder value," said one Seagram investor.

Shareholders are worried about Seagram's founding share price and a host of unfulfilled promises from the company's high-profile film studio acquired for \$5.7bn in 1995.

To finance the acquisition, 42-year-old Mr Bronfman sold Seagram's 23 per cent stake in DuPont, the US chemicals company, for \$8.7bn. Today, that investment would be worth

\$19.1bn because DuPont's shares have more than doubled. Seagram's stock, meanwhile, is up just 50 per cent.

Outside Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* last summer, Universal has not released any blockbusters under Mr Bronfman. This year, Universal ranks sixth among film distributors with just a 6.3 per cent share of the US and Canadian box office.

After the failure of *Primary Colors*, four executives resigned, increasing the sense of

turmoil in Universal City.

Mr Bronfman has engineered the sale of most of the company's television businesses, including the USA Network and Sci-Fi cable channels, to Barry Diller's Home Shopping Network. He is also trying to get Hollywood to deal with the problem of runaway costs. He has brought in consultants and managers who have wrung out more than \$100m in cost savings from the business. And he is expanding the company's lesser-known

though profitable theme-park business.

He said at an industry conference in March that Universal is ahead of schedule in its five-year recovery plan. He also said this week that Seagram has no plans to separate its entertainment and beverage businesses.

"We have taken Seagram through a dramatic transformation, increased operating profit and increased the value of the assets we own," he said. – Bloomberg

## Second approach may start Courtaulds bidding war

By Nigel Cope  
Associate City Editor

**COURTAULDS**, the coatings and fibres group which last month agreed a £1.8bn offer from the Dutch chemicals group Akzo Nobel, revealed yesterday it had received a second bid approach which analysts said could lead to a bidding war for the company.

The second bidder is widely thought to be either PPG Industries or Sherwin Williams, two US paint groups which were both thought to be looking at Courtaulds before it agreed the 450p per share offer from Akzo Nobel.

Courtaulds, one of Britain's oldest companies, revealed the second approach in its recommended offer document by Akzo Nobel which it posted yesterday. However, Courtaulds said no offer had been received and it was not possible to determine whether a firm offer would be forthcoming. It said it still considered the Akzo Nobel offer fair and reasonable and that its board was unanimously recommending it.

Sherwin is the market leader in the American paints industry and has been expanding into South America. PPG has also been expanding and last year bought some Italian and German automotive coatings businesses. Analysts said other bidders could include ICI, which has been completing a radical overhaul of its chemicals operations. However, it is understood that ICI management is cool on the idea of entering the fray at current prices. Courtaulds shares rose 25p to 464p valuing Courtaulds at £1.9bn.

Martin Evans at Sutherland, the stockbrokers, repeated his statement that Courtaulds was "seriously under-valued" at 450p per share given its rarity value and its prime market positions in sectors such as the marine, aerospace and protective coatings industries as well as its polymer business. "You won't be able to build market positions like these. You would need to buy them," he said. He put a possible take-out price of 600p per share on the company.

Akzo said it has "sufficient financing available" should the need arise to re-think its position.

Analysts believe any interloper would have trouble dislodging Akzo unless it had a very well defined plan for the Courtaulds fibres business.

Akzo wants to spin off the operation along with its own fibres business. "You can see how it works for Akzo. It's a bit harder to see how it works for one of the big paint companies," said Peter Cartwright at Williams de Broe.

## Underwriting 'has monopolies'

By Les Paterson

**THE** Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) has provisionally found there are "complex monopolies" operating in the provision of underwriting services for new share issues on the stock market which "prevent, restrict, or distort competition".

However, the MMC is yet to decide whether these monopolies operate against the public interest. The MMC can only push for change in the industry if the monopolies operate, or are expected to operate, against the public interest.

The MMC's provisional findings are contained in a standard "issues letter" circulated to all interested parties. For the first time, the MMC has published the letter, which also contains "hypothetical" recommendations for change –

known as "remedies".

According to Denise Kingsmill, deputy chairman of the MMC and chairman of the underwriting inquiry, the publication of the issues letter was intended to stimulate debate and to shed light on the workings of the MMC. The decision to publish was not sparked by the complexity of the issues under discussion, Ms Kingsmill said.

The MMC has provisionally concluded that there are complex monopolies in both the supply of lead underwriting services and the supply of sub-underwriting services. A complex monopoly exists if there is a group of firms with at least a 25 per cent market share whose actions "prevent, restrict or distort competition".

Most companies are charged a standard 2 per cent fee by lead underwriters, and

the MMC is concerned this charging structure reflects a fundamentally uncompetitive market. If the market was fully competitive, the MMC said it would expect fees to vary with risk – that is, riskier share issues should be more expensive.

The MMC's issues letter asks members of the underwriting industry whether they believe the charging structure damages "the public interest". Among other things, industry participants have been asked to consider whether the cost of underwriting has been artificially inflated, whether underwriting fees are sufficiently transparent and whether firms wishing to provide underwriting or sub-underwriting services are being denied the opportunity to do so.

The issues letter also sets down 15 potential "remedies"

the MMC could employ if it decided the complex monopolies "operate, or could be expected to operate, against the public interest". The remedies, which are "entirely hypothetical", include mandatory tendering for sub-underwriting and the capping of sub-underwriting fees.

The MMC could require financial advisers to inform issuing companies of the alternatives to paying standard fees for share underwriting, or could recommend lead underwriters be appointed by competitive tender. It could also ask the Office of Fair Trading to monitor the sector for a further two years.

The MMC is scheduled to report its findings to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 20 November, exactly a year after the industry was referred for investigation.

## Watchdog investigates share shop blunders in flotation of Thomson

By Andrew Yates

**SHARE** shops involved in the flotation of Thomson Travel are under investigation from the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the industry regulator, over the administrative errors which caused tens of thousands of potential investors to miss out on shares.

The SFA has acted on numerous complaints from private investors by contacting share shops to seek an explanation.

It could force the brokers to compensate the huge number of people who have not been able to buy shares and has the power to levy fines if its finds they have been at fault.

Thousands of investors who registered early for shares failed to receive application forms in time. Share shops

also failed to cope with the huge rush of investors who registered at the last moment. Those who were awarded an allocation saw their shares gain 23.5p on the 170p flotation price.

Share shops involved in the flotation include The Share Centre, Barclays Stockbrokers, Hargreaves Lansdown, NatWest Stockbrokers and Skipton Building Society.

Thomson has tried to placate investors by offering them the chance to enjoy flotation perks such as 10 per cent off all the holidays. But these investors will have to buy shares at a higher price in the market to receive discounts on holidays after 31 December. And Thomson has come under fire for not allocating extra shares in the flotation to those who missed out through no fault of their own.

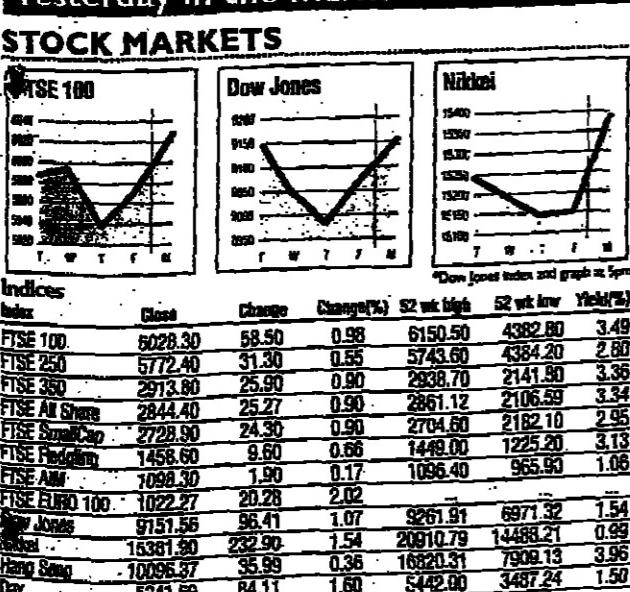
The sharp rise in the share price means Thomson's directors, led by Paul Brett, the chief executive, are already sitting on a profit of more than £750,000 from the shares they were able to purchase in the flotation.

Mr Brett said: "I am absolutely delighted at the level of support we had at the flotation from the public. We believe we have come up with a fair compromise for those people that missed out on the shares. They can get 10 per cent off their holidays which is worth £1.25 for an average family up to December and keep their £500 in the bank and earn interest on it."

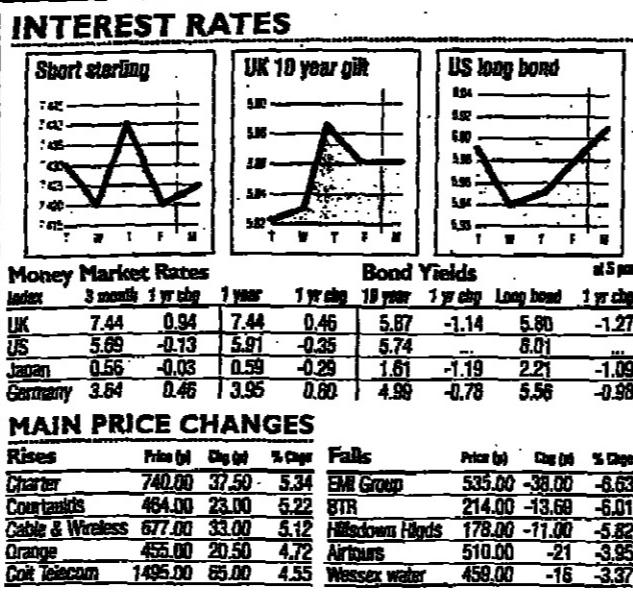
Thomson Corporation of Canada, which sold the tour operator, is expected to raise a minimum of £1.25bn from the sale, representing a gain to the parent company of about £813m.

Yesterday in the markets

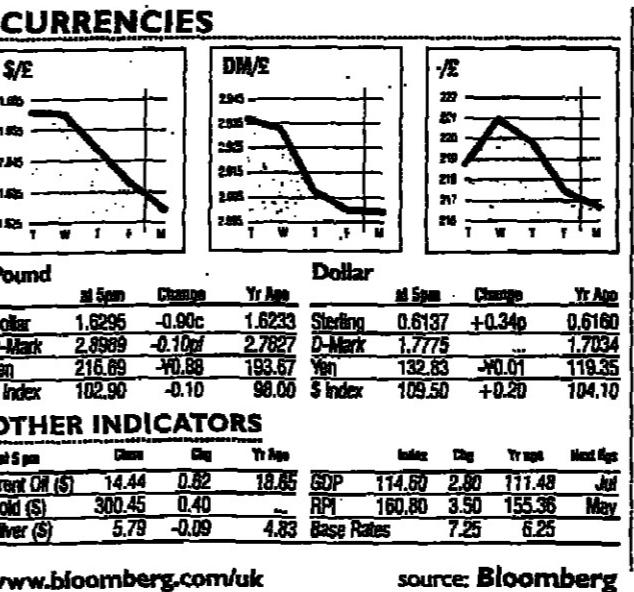
### STOCK MARKETS



### INTEREST RATES



### CURRENCIES



### TOURIST RATES

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## Jilted EMI has to prove its worth now



**OUTLOOK**  
ON RECORD  
COMPANIES IN A  
SPIN: WHERE  
BRANSON FINDS  
START-UP CAPITAL;  
AND HOW VW IS  
NEAR THE  
WINNING LINE

ED BRONFMAN of Seagram seems to be putting it around with the abandon of an ageing rock star in his attempt to find a music company to buy. First EMI, now PolyGram. If there were anyone else it was possible to flirt with, Mr Bronfman would be there.

But then again, perhaps it was the other way round. Was it EMI, desperate to be taken over, which like some young groupie approached him? Realising there was an arguably more attractive prize on offer, EMI's advances were brushed aside, and Seagram turned its attentions instead to PolyGram. The spin being applied to events by all parties makes it unlikely we'll never get to the bottom of what happened.

Whatever the truth, the episode has left EMI looking jilted and just a little foolish. Coming on top of the management upheavals of the last few months, this has given the impression of a company all at sea and in some need of assistance. So

In the City it is quite widely believed that the industry is ripe for consolidation and that EMI would inevitably, as the only independently quoted company of size, play a pivotal role in any such restructuring. But actually this is the least likely outcome. The big five record companies of EMI, Sony, Time Warner, PolyGram and Bertelsmann, already have about 75 per cent of the market between them.

In this respect, the music industry is quite unlike other businesses gripped by the consolidation bug. For instance, if the world's two biggest pharmaceuticals companies were to merge, it would create a

behemoth for sure, but even so the new monster wouldn't have more than 10 per cent of the world market for prescribed drugs. The same is not true for music. Any combination of alternatives within the big five would run into severe regulatory difficulties, particularly in the US.

Obviously there is no such stumbling block for those from outside the industry, or with only a limited presence in it (like Seagram or Disney). The music industry is notoriously badly and under-managed. Its poor operating margins are a constant source of amazement to analysts. The reasons for this are many and varied but the most important is the self evident one that many of those who work in it regard it as a life style business. As one seasoned City observer puts it, "there are an awful lot of snouts in the trough" (double meaning intended). It may be possible, then, to extract much better value out of these businesses than they presently yield.

However, EMI is one of the better managed companies in the business despite the apparent turmoil at the top. Furthermore, there is little evidence that Seagram, or even Disney, could do the job any better. Seagram's recent record, both strategically and in terms of core performance, has been at best mixed. Investors have also fallen out of love with Disney. It is not certain either would be doing their shareholders a service by paying the necessary bid premium.

Part of EMI's problem with the City has been that expectations of its value were driven to exaggerated heights. By the same token, though, Sir Colin Southgate, the

chairman is absolutely right to believe a bid at little more than £5 a share undervalues the company. Now that he's been forced, reluctantly, to return to his day job, the pressure is on for him to prove he's right, for it may well be that there's no one either allowed or prepared to bid much more.

### How Virgin invests in the future

RICHARD BRANSON was in New York yesterday for the US launch of Virgin Cola. On this side of the Atlantic, however, the talk, once again, was not about fizzy drinks but whether and if so when he will float his airline, Virgin Atlantic.

To the Bransonologists, those who follow every twist and turn of his complicated business affairs, the two story lines may be related. The Virgin Cola story has gone a bit flat. It is one of those rare phenomena - a product that has not responded to the Virgin brand magic. Virgin has now taken full control of the Cola business and, while it remains a small part of the overall empire, it will continue to consume cash and offer only losses in return for some while yet.

The picture is similar at a number of other Branson joint ventures such as the financial products business Virgin Direct, Virgin Spirits and Virgin Cinemas. The Branson camp retorts that this is only natural in early, start-up years of such ventures.

But the daddy of them all, when it comes to risk and investment, is Virgin Trains. The word is that despite their abysmal reputation, the two franchises - the West Coast

Mainline and Cross Country Trains - are profitable and that Mr Branson will prove the doubters wrong when he successfully floats the business this summer.

Unfortunately, those profits are built on the back of fat subsidies from the taxpayer. From 2002 onwards, Virgin starts to pay an annual rental for the West Coast Line and, by 2012 will have made net payments to the Government of nearly £1bn. In order to make the business pay its way, Virgin will have to double passenger numbers. This is a tall order when the £2bn modernisation of the line will almost certainly mean services deteriorating before they get better.

On top of that, Virgin is introducing tilting trains for both the West Coast and Cross Country franchises at a cost of well over £1bn. Virgin argues that the rental charges will be met out of profits while the rolling stock orders will be off balance sheet since it will merely lease the trains.

Even so, Mr Branson will still require an awful lot of capital to drive the non-travel businesses forward. When he was in a similar fix in 1992 he sold his most profitable business, Virgin Music, to EMI. This time around the cash cow could be Virgin Atlantic which, according to the more heroic estimates, could raise as much as £1bn. And anyway, airline floats are all the rage. Just look at Mr Branson's other quoted airline, Virgin Express, which has risen in value by a half since flotation.

No one at Virgin is anxious to talk up the story. For one thing, it might suggest the train flotation is running off the tracks.

But Mr Branson would not be the opportunist he is if he were not seriously tempted by the idea. And, as the Bransonologists know, it would not be the first time Virgin has sold off its past to finance its future.

### BMW falls behind in race for Rolls

THE ROLLS-ROYCE takeover saga shifts a gear in Munich today where Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman, will tell his annual shareholders' meeting how he intends to see off the rival bidder Volkswagen. Even though VW's bid is a full £90m higher, BMW mysteriously continues to set its offer as the more attractive one. Unless they have a crash last, not many shareholders in Vickers, Rolls parent company, are likely to share this belief.

Thus far the Bavarian tactics have consisted of a series of spoiling manoeuvres to block the sale to VW. It is threatening to withdraw its engines if Rolls becomes part of the VW stable. And if that does not work, it is relying upon its pals at the aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce PLC to play hard ball over transferring the Rolls-Royce mark and trade name to VW. Neither gambit looks likely to succeed. VW can find a new source of engines and Rolls-Royce will be hard pushed to argue that one giant German car owner is a less suitable home for the marque than another. Mr Pischetsrieder will have to up the ante if he wants a Roller to adorn the next annual report to shareholders.

## US telecom firms in \$61bn deal

By David Usborne  
in New York

CONSOLIDATION in the American telephone companies entered a new orbit yesterday following an announcement from SBC Communications that has agreed to acquire Ameritech Corp for about \$61bn (£37bn), making it the biggest merger ever in the industry and the second biggest in all corporate history.

The deal, which is certain to provoke intense scrutiny from regulators in Washington, marks the next phase in the transformation of SBC. One of the seven Baby Bells created after the 1984 break-up of the old AT&T to a domestic telephone powerhouse stretching from Detroit to Los Angeles and Houston.

It will also send seismic ripples through the entire industry. The size of the deal is such that it even eclipses the \$37bn that WorldCom is proposing to pay for MCI Communications, which at one time was destined to fall into British Telecom's hands until that transaction fell to pieces.

More broadly, the price being offered by SBC means this should measure up as the second largest merger ever between corporations after the \$37bn proposed marriage between Citicorp and Travelers Corp that was unveiled just last month.

SBC has established itself as a predator with a voracious appetite. After existing since 1984 as Southwestern Bell, covering states like Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri, it expanded its base exponentially last year with the \$16.5bn purchase of Pacific Telesis, gaining California and Nevada. Earlier this year it also swallowed Connecticut-based Southern New England Telecommunications for \$4.4bn.

With yesterday's announcement, SBC will stand accused of trying to reverse the break-up of the old bell system to establish a new domestic monopoly. Such criticism was fended

off, however, by Ed Whitacre, the SBC Chairman.

"The Bell system had national monopoly," he insisted. "This merger talks about 12 states, not 50."

However, the new company, to be called SBC, would serve customers in the top 50 US telephone markets. For these reasons, most analysts did not expect the deal to go through smoothly and certainly not in the 12-month window set by Mr Whitacre yesterday. Reflecting a cautious reaction on Wall Street, shares in SBC fell \$2.62 in morning trading. Ameritech, the principal phone company for the Midwest, rose \$3.25 to \$47.125.

The deal may also give pause to champions of telecom deregulation on Capitol Hill in Washington, who surely never foresaw that the rampant consolidation of the last several months, which has also included the combination of Nynex and Bell Atlantic on the East Coast, would turn out to be the principle result.

"I don't think there is any question there will be a firestorm from regulators, consumer groups, long-distance carriers... arguing that the Telecom Act was not intended to put Humpty Dumpty back together again," said Scott Wright, an analyst with Farnestock & Co in New York.

Pressure will now intensify on the other phone companies to find new partners of their own, including the new AT&T which until now has remained aloof from the marrying frenzy. Criticising SBC's move, AT&T said yesterday the deal "creates no local competition and delivers no consumer benefits".

In an ironic twist, however, AT&T was itself the subject of speculation last year that it was about to get into bed with SBC. Observers predict AT&T will be forced to find an alliance with another of the remaining Baby Bells. An AT&T marriage with the new Bell Atlantic would be the most dramatic of possible combinations.



French economy minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn tips the first euro coins into a container at France's official mint in Pessac near Bordeaux yesterday, making France the first single currency nation to produce the money. Photograph: AFP

## BMW faces pressure to declare its intentions on Rolls-Royce

By Michael Harrison

THE GERMAN car maker BMW will come under pressure at its annual shareholders' meeting today to clarify whether it plans to top Volkswagen's £430m offer for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars after a day of confusion and conflicting reports.

A BMW management board member, Horst Teltschik, yesterday denied reports the company was considering increasing its £340m bid. "We won't raise our offer. If we don't get Rolls-Royce, there are other alternatives. We could develop our own

9-Series," he said. Another spokesman for BMW later refused to rule out the possibility of a higher offer. "We cannot confirm we will raise our bid, but we are not ruling it out," said Walter Glogauer.

He was responding to a newspaper report that BMW by no means excludes an "improvement" of the offer, although the company's official line has always been that it has no intention of doing so.

Meanwhile the aero-engine company Rolls-Royce plc, which owns the rights to the Rolls-Royce trademark, said it did not expect to hold any talks with

Volkswagen about allowing the transfer of the name, until after shareholders in Rolls' parent company, Vickers, have voted on the rival offers at an extraordinary meeting on 4 June.

Neither the aero-engine company nor VW would comment on reports that a licence fee of between £40m and £100m would be payable for allowing VW the right to use the name.

Rolls-Royce plc has made no secret of its preference for BMW, with which it already has an aero-engine joint venture. It says a sale to BMW would reunite the Rolls-Royce name.

Outlook, this page

## Sumitomo pays £5m to UK regulator

By Andrew Verity

In the US, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission fined Sumitomo \$125m (£77m). Sumitomo expects to set aside \$25m to compensate other interested parties.

Hamanaka confessed in June 1996 to conducting unauthorised trades in copper futures on a huge scale in an effort to corner the market. The illegal trading had gone on for 10 years, during which time he became known as "Mr Five Per Cent" - because of his alleged manipulation of the market.

The payment, compensating for alleged damage to British markets and resolving all outstanding claims against Sumitomo, represents the biggest payment made to the FSA.

Sumitomo, which employed Hamanaka, paid the City's super-regulator £5m to cover its time, effort and expenses in investigating the fraud.

The FSA had begun investigating Hamanaka's activities in early 1996. Traders had pointed to a large and unexplained "backwardation" in copper - the cash price was higher than the future price.

Regulators' suspicions were aroused because the cost of storing and funding the copper should push the future price higher than the cash price. Market rumours at the time said the cause was deliberate manipulation of the market.

The FSA alleged that Hamanaka's conduct had damaged the reputation of British markets and claimed it had incurred hefty costs. Sumitomo did not accept the allegations

but has co-operated with investigators.

The American CFTC said it had found that markets were unlawfully manipulated in 1995 and 1996 because of Hamanaka's unauthorised trades. It also said he had carried out the illegal trades through a New York based copper merchant, whom it refused to name.

The FSA is still involved in an international investigation of the copper scandal, which cost Sumitomo \$2.6bn (£1.6bn), in partnership with Japanese and US authorities. British individuals and companies, including traders and market makers in copper, are still being probed.

The Serious Fraud Office is

also investigating whether there was a conspiracy to defraud which went wider than Hamanaka.

Martin London, a partner at Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison, lawyers for Sumitomo, said the company itself had been defrauded. "The company will, in the US, UK, Japan and elsewhere, vigorously pursue those who helped Mr Hamanaka defraud Sumitomo," he said.

The FSA said it had received "prompt valuable and extensive co-operation" from Sumitomo since Hamanaka's confession in June 1996.

The £5m settlement is a fraction of the £77m CFTC fine because the FSA has no power to fine companies directly.

## US mega merger puts C&W back in the frame

### MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

**YET** another huge American telephone merger sent a buzz of excitement surging through the lines at Cable & Wireless. In active trading, the shares rose 33p to 677p as speculation resurfaced about the group's ability to retain its independence.

The transatlantic deal is \$6.2bn alliance between SBC Communications and America. It ranks with NationsBank's takeover of BankAmerica as the second largest merger on record, topped only by the \$7.5bn Citicorp and Travelers get together.

Cable was also helped by rumours, later denied, that its Italian partner, Telecom Italia, planned to cement their trading relationship by buying a 10 per cent stake. Slightly better results from its Cable & Wireless Communications offshoot also helped but it was the deepening suspicion the takeover bell will soon ring which was the major influence.

BT missed the party, falling

6p to 658p. But Vodafone jumped 20p to 690p and Orange 20.5p to 455p. Seacor put up 12.5p to 411.5p on hopes BT will buy its stake in their Cellnet mobile telephone joint venture.

Foolsie jumped 58.5 points to 6,028.3 with the supporting indices again hitting new peaks; New York provided much of the momentum.

Among blue chips, Courtaulds, the chemical group, added 23p to 464p as a possible rival offer to the Dutch Akzo Nobel 450p bid was signalled; Rolls-Royce climbed 9.5p to a 304.5p peak as Morgan Stanley lifted its target to 193.5p after it dismissed weekend reports it was again looking at Safeway, up 2.75p to 193.75p ahead of figures tomorrow.

EMI was in a downspin, off 38p (after 49p) on the end of bid talks with Seagram, the Canadian group. Northern Leisure, the disco chain was another where takeover hopes disappeared, falling 35p to 505.5p.

British Energy fell 14p to

550p on reports it planned to

rank, the leisure group, ended slightly firmer at 385p despite sell advice from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. The investment house frets the shares could fall to 310p and suggests the dividend may be cut and the group will deliver less than 3 per cent profits growth.

Pearson, the banking to media group, gave up 7p to 938p after confirming long-running speculation it is thinking of buying publisher Simon & Schuster from the Viacom giant for around \$4bn. Renewed bid talks lifted Zeneca 70p to 2,620p.

Auda regained 4.5p to 193.5p after it dismissed weekend reports it was again looking at Safeway, up 2.75p to 193.75p ahead of figures tomorrow.

Financials came to life after weeks of indecisiveness. Halifax hardened 23.5p to 814.5p and Woolwich 7p to 351p.

British Energy fell 14p to

550p on reports it planned to

buy the infamous US power station Three Mile Island.

Thomson, the packaged holidays group, arrived with a suitable splash. The when-issued shares touched 211p (against the top-of-the-range 170p flotation), closing at 193.5p. Trading was heavy with Seacor putting volume at almost 122 million shares.

Jefferson Smarfit, the

paper and packaging group, gained a further 16p to 240p after its 46.5 per cent owned US off-shoot agreed a merger with another American packaging group.

Bids continued on the undercard. Hambro Insurance Services edged ahead 2.5p to 128.5p after controlling shareholder, the soon-to-disappear Hambros, accepted a 132p a share offer from a group called Lindsey Mor-

den.

Dalancier Estates shaded

4.5p to 102p as hopes of a bid evaporated, replaced by the possibility of a big acquisition, funded by shares valued at 100p. Chesterton Properties fell 15.5p to 642.5p on reports would-be bidder MEPC had lost interest. MEPC gained 21.5p to 593.5p.

Andrews Sykes improved

15.2p to 1,200p after buying Cox Plant Hire from Transport Development for £49.6m. Part of the consideration will be met through an £8.5m open offer.

Burnden Leisure dropped

5p to 17p on the relegation of

its trading operation, Bolton

Wanderers.

### TAKING STOCK

ACORN Computer, 4p firmer at 149.5p, is contemplating distributing its 25 per cent shareholding in the ARM computer chip maker to its shareholders.

ARM came to market last month. The shares fell 17.5p to 795p as they have closed as high as 870p.

The ARM shares could be worth as much as 120p per Acorn share. Acorn has lost money in its last three full years and was £1.1m in the red in its last interim report.

SUPERFRAME, an engineer, gained 3p to 23p. Expect corporate developments soon. There are suggestions it will buy an engineering group in what will amount to a reverse takeover.

On Friday the company reported profits up from £137,000 to £206,000 and said it traded profitably in the first three months of this year although "the strength of our order book is still not at a level of total comfort".

### Share Spotlight

share price, pence

800

Cable & Wireless

750

Source: Bloomberg



J J A S O N D J F M A M

Signet, the jeweller, was

activity traded with two delayed trades of 25 and 21 million. US selling was suspended. The price firmed 0.25p to 46.5p.

Emerald Energy, confirming drilling had started at its Gigante 1A well in Colombia, held at 7p. Monument Oil & Gas is earning a 14 per cent interest by meeting up to 87.3m of the cost.

Housebuilder Fairbriar, five years ago trudging along at 4p, gained 11p to 50p after reporting profits up from £3.2m to £9.5m.

Columbus, a publisher, hardened 3.75p to 21.75p. Figures are due soon. Stockbroker Butterfield, which took a shine to the shares when they were 14p in September, expect year's profits to rise to £1.6m.

Burnden Leisure dropped 5p to 17p on the relegation of its trading operation, Bolton Wanderers.

### Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The p/e ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptional.

Stocks are in £m. Ex-dividend date followed by a stock code: S suspended; P partly paid; np not paid. Source: Bloomberg

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FTSE 100 Index 66.941 Gilt's index 105.42 +0.43

Seq volume: 858.6m trades 66,941

Gilt's index 105.42 +0.43

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes

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# Where to expect a recovery in South-east Asia to start



HAMISH  
MCRAE  
ON THE  
COUNTRIES  
TAKING  
THE LEAD

IT AINT the going down that matters; it is how quickly you come up afterwards.

The collapse of the East Asian economies is getting worse, not better, but you can begin to glimpse clear distinctions between those countries which are adjusting swiftly and those which are botching it. So there seems to be a new rule of thumb for analysts, fund managers, or any companies wishing to invest in the region. Don't spend too much time watching the fall because all the countries are in pretty much the same boat; instead, try to identify the scope for recovery, for that is where the real distinctions lie.

The first proposition is easy to demonstrate. Aside from Japan (which is in a rather different position) the two places with the highest GDP per head are Hong Kong and Singapore. They are the most advanced in economic terms. Both assumed that their very different level of economic sophistication would enable them to escape the regional contagion: they were not emerging economies, they had already emerged. Indeed, many people believed that Singapore would benefit from the regional crisis as investment would hurry there in a flight to quality.

Wrong. Hong Kong has

been hit by a loss of confidence following the Chinese takeover, particularly among the Japanese, which has damaged the tourist trade.

Singapore ought not to have seen a similar collapse, but it has. The result is shown in the graph on the left: domestic demand in both places started to turn down in the middle of last year and now is heading downwards with increasing speed. The figures are not directly comparable, for one is volume, the other value, but the similarity in the pattern is striking. Hong Kong looks like experiencing its first recession since the Second World War. It is perfectly plausible that Singapore will experience recession, too.

If you look at industrial production (right-hand graph) a slightly different picture emerges. Thailand, where the crisis first became evident, has been heading south ever since the middle of last year. But elsewhere there was sufficient momentum to carry production upwards for several months. Output in China seems to have peaked around the turn of the year, and only recently has begun to fall in any dramatic way.

All this would figure: retail sales will respond very quickly to any change in people's perceived circumstances. If we get scared, we stop buying. But industrial production inevitably lags. More surprising, though, is the fact that Thailand and Korea, the two countries at the bottom of the right-hand graph, are now seen as the potential success stories of the region, the ones where recovery will take hold most strongly.

This is certainly the view of the International Monetary Fund, which has been impressed by the vigour with which these two countries have been applying reform programmes. You also pick up this view in the investment banking community. And if you want one modest endorsement of it among hard-nosed business people, well, note that Tesco is expected this week to announce that it will take a stake in

Thailand's second largest hypermarket operator.

Expect, too, foreign participation in the Korean industrial rescues which are now being put in place. By contrast, Malaysia is not really putting together an integrated reform programme that is attractive to foreign investors, and Indonesia - well, it is very difficult to be anything other than gloomy until political change takes place.

So there is a clearly defined clutch of leaders, with Thailand and Korea in the vanguard, and a tail of laggards, with Indonesia obviously at the back. Hong Kong is a conundrum, for more than ever its future will depend on the attitude of China. Were it still a colony it would react as it has always done in the past: adjust to market pressures with speed and ferocity. But that is an exchange rate, or it may be something more. But that is an intuitive judgement based on partial information, rather a thought-through verdict.

At least we do have a clear picture of what is happening in Hong Kong. By contrast, we know very little about what is happening in mainland China. The last figures are now showing a sharp decline in output, but other numbers being published, most notably the foreign reserves, show no sign of crisis. Eventually, it will be possible to put together a picture and, in particular, make a better judgement on the likelihood of a Chinese devaluation which, if it happens, would change the balance of competitiveness in the entire region. But at the moment we are pretty blind.

Sifting through the available information - partly from published data, partly from first-hand anecdotal reports from people who have just returned - my instinct is to expect a big discontinuity in Chinese economic policy within the next six to nine months. Something is going to give. That something may just be the exchange rate, or it may be something more. But that is an intuitive judgement based on partial information, rather a thought-through verdict.

Meanwhile, expect a modest

recovery of sorts to begin in both Korea and Thailand. It will not be marvellous; and any regional recovery risks being unseated by external events. The most likely of these is a rise in US interest rates, which would probably have occurred by now had the Fed not been concerned at the knock-on effect on the East Asian region. But it will signal the end of the slash-and-burn approach to rating the region, assuming because one country heads south that all the others will too.

As it has turned out that was the right approach to analysis in the downswing, for they did all head down pretty much together. But it will be the wrong one during the upswing, for they will head up at different speeds. There is a bigger moral here. When there is bad news the best thing to do is panic, sell everything and don't try to be clever. When there is good news (as there will, in pockets, be from now on), be discerning: it is a time for applying judgement again.

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**recovery of sorts to begin in both Korea and Thailand. It will not be marvellous; and any regional recovery risks being unseated by external events. The most likely of these is a rise in US interest rates, which would probably have occurred by now had the Fed not been concerned at the knock-on effect on the East Asian region. But it will signal the end of the slash-and-burn approach to rating the region, assuming because one country heads south that all the others will too.**

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**IT AINT the going down that matters; it is how quickly you come up afterwards.**

**The collapse of the East Asian economies is getting worse, not better, but you can begin to glimpse clear distinctions between those countries which are adjusting swiftly and those which are botching it. So there seems to be a new rule of thumb for analysts, fund managers, or any companies wishing to invest in the region. Don't spend too much time watching the fall because all the countries are in pretty much the same boat; instead, try to identify the scope for recovery, for that is where the real distinctions lie.**

**The first proposition is easy to demonstrate. Aside from Japan (which is in a rather different position) the two places with the highest GDP per head are Hong Kong and Singapore. They are the most advanced in economic terms. Both assumed that their very different level of economic sophistication would enable them to escape the regional contagion: they were not emerging economies, they had already emerged. Indeed, many people believed that Singapore would benefit from the regional crisis as investment would hurry there in a flight to quality.**

**Wrong. Hong Kong has**

**been hit by a loss of confidence following the Chinese takeover, particularly among the Japanese, which has damaged the tourist trade.**

**Singapore ought not to have seen a similar collapse, but it has. The result is shown in the graph on the left: domestic demand in both places started to turn down in the middle of last year and now is heading downwards with increasing speed. The figures are not directly comparable, for one is volume, the other value, but the similarity in the pattern is striking. Hong Kong looks like experiencing its first recession since the Second World War. It is perfectly plausible that Singapore will experience recession, too.**

**If you look at industrial production (right-hand graph) a slightly different picture emerges. Thailand, where the crisis first became evident, has been heading south ever since the middle of last year. But elsewhere there was sufficient momentum to carry production upwards for several months. Output in China seems to have peaked around the turn of the year, and only recently has begun to fall in any dramatic way.**

**All this would figure: retail sales will respond very quickly to any change in people's perceived circumstances. If we get scared, we stop buying. But industrial production inevitably lags. More surprising, though, is the fact that Thailand and Korea, the two countries at the bottom of the right-hand graph, are now seen as the potential success stories of the region, the ones where recovery will take hold most strongly.**

**This is certainly the view of the International Monetary Fund, which has been impressed by the vigour with which these two countries have been applying reform programmes. You also pick up this view in the investment banking community. And if you want one modest endorsement of it among hard-nosed business people, well, note that Tesco is expected this week to announce that it will take a stake in**

**Thailand's second largest hypermarket operator.**

**Expect, too, foreign participation in the Korean industrial rescues which are now being put in place.**

**By contrast, Malaysia is not really putting together an integrated reform programme that is attractive to foreign investors, and Indonesia - well, it is very difficult to be anything other than gloomy until political change takes place.**

**So there is a clearly defined clutch of leaders, with Thailand and Korea in the vanguard, and a tail of laggards, with Indonesia obviously at the back. Hong Kong is a conundrum, for more than ever its future will depend on the attitude of China. Were it still a colony it would react as it has always done in the past: adjust to market pressures with speed and ferocity. But that is an exchange rate, or it may be something more. But that is an intuitive judgement based on partial information, rather a thought-through verdict.**

**At least we do have a clear picture of what is happening in Hong Kong. By contrast, we know very little about what is happening in mainland China. The last figures are now showing a sharp decline in output, but other numbers being published, most notably the foreign reserves, show no sign of crisis. Eventually, it will be possible to put together a picture and, in particular, make a better judgement on the likelihood of a Chinese devaluation which, if it happens, would change the balance of competitiveness in the entire region. But at the moment we are pretty blind.**

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# Stewart boosted by season's first points

## Motor racing

By Derek Allsop

IT was business as usual in the McLaren-Mercedes camp and the scene reflected that: no excessive celebrations, no gloating, no flaunting. Another one-two had been clinically accomplished, time to pack up and head for the next race.

Evidence of spilling emotions was to be found along the pit-lane, at Stewart-Ford: jubilation, relief, and a discernible sense of vindication. Theirs was the unscripted triumph of the Spanish Grand Prix.

Jackie Stewart arrived here facing an inquisition and there were those who relished his public discomfiture. Was his team up to it? Was he up to it? Ford were among those doubtless listening for the answers.

But then Rubens Barrichello, the Brazilian driver who delivered the team's only other points, from that remarkable second place at Monaco, a year earlier, produced a little gem of a drive, fending off the world champion, Jacques Villeneuve and his Williams, to bring home

the white car in fifth place. Stewart, three times world champion as a driver, gratefully embraced the two points as if they were his first.

"The last few weeks have been murder," he said. "We needed a good result here and we've got it."

The late completion of this year's car, the laborious move to a new factory, and Jan Magnussen's early poor form combined to intensify the pressure on Stewart.

"It's stressful enough moving home," he said. "Imagine what it's like moving an entire race team. It's been very difficult for us. But for all that I've never had second thoughts about going ahead with this. I've had ups and downs throughout my career."

"I know people were looking for me to fail when I came back into Formula One, but you always get that. It doesn't concern me. They said the same when we set up Paul Stewart Racing 10 years ago and we've run 12 championships and 122 races with that team."

"We also have a good team

here. We have the resources and

the facilities. Next month we will have our test team in place and that is something we've obviously needed."

"Success at this level isn't achieved overnight. We can't expect to take on the Ferraris, Benettons and Saubers of this world straight away. We're still finding our feet."

Barrichello's application this season has helped sustain the team's optimism through the trials and magnificence, who almost lost his job a fortnight ago, bought himself a little more time in the car by finishing Sunday's race, albeit a distant 12th.

"The really pleasing thing is that Rubens managed to keep Villeneuve behind him for the whole race," Stewart said. "During the last third of the race, I was incredibly tense."

"It was great that Jan finished. We just have to get his head in shape. We don't want to change him if he can get his act together, and maybe this is the start for him."

Stewart returns to Monte Carlo, on Sunday week, in good heart while others hope the unique nature of the principal-

ity's street circuit will provide him with the opportunity of closing the gap on McLaren.

Mika Hakkinen's success here, ahead of his team-mate David Coulthard, was as resounding as it was anticipated by most.

Ferrari will have to find significant improvements if Michael Schumacher is to summon any sustained threat to McLaren and force Ron Dennis to concentrate his team's efforts on one of their drivers. Otherwise, Formula One is looking to Coulthard to challenge Hakkinen and make a spectacle of the champion.

Dennis said: "I hope we have the problem of how we will handle which of the two will be going for the world championship, but at this stage that would be too presumptuous."

"They are comfortable with each other. We will not step in with any instructions because it is not necessary as it was at the start of the season."

McLaren have discovered the once elusive reliability to match their performance, and just now that is proving an irresistible formula.



Tiger Woods on the way to the win that made him world No 1 again. Photograph: Reuters

# Smith stuck in sad saga

## Sailing

By Stuart Alexander

THE sad saga of Britain's Silk Cut was tinged with a hint of humiliation yesterday as Lawrie Smith dropped further and further back on the eighth leg of the Whitbread race from Antipolis to La Rochelle.

Smith was not alone in his misery another famous name, John Kostecki, brought up the rear in Chessie Racing, over 200 miles behind the leader, Paul Standridge, who has just 1,200 miles to go in

Toshiba. But Smith, in eighth place, was going really slowly, having found a spot in the Atlantic with hardly any wind to push him along. He has been reduced to praying that a forecast new westerly wind will pick him up and help him close the gap over the next 36 hours.

Standridge had slightly increased his lead over Grant Dalton in Merit Cup, and these two had a 25-mile cushion on the overall leader and third-placed Paul Cayard in EF Langrage.

This would suit the Californian very nicely as, even though the only man who could attack him, Gunnar Krantz, moved a flat-tin Swedish match up to fifth place, this would leave Cayard with a 127-point advantage over Krantz.

That is more than Krantz could score on the final leg to Southampton so Cayard, whose father is French, should be able to celebrate an overall win in the Volvo Trophy this weekend.

There is, however, still some tricky navigation to complete.

"Up ahead is a minefield of light air," said Standridge. "It is critical to ride this front as long as possible and try to get on to the back of a stationary low at 15 degrees west which will get us into the Bay of Biscay."

Positions, Digest, page 27

## Ireland's tour of S Africa still on hold

### Rugby Union

THE FATE of Ireland's forthcoming tour of South Africa remained unclear yesterday despite the resignation of Louis Luyt, the president of the South African Rugby Football Union.

"Our position remains unchanged," said Mvuso Mbebe, the chief executive of the National Sports Council, referring to the controlling sports body's view that all international rugby tours of the country are suspended pending further notice.

"We had planned to contact the Irish Rugby Union today, but

now will only do so after we have discussions with the [rugby union] provinces," Mbebe added.

Following Luyt's resignation, the sports minister, Steve Ishwete said all tours to South Africa would go ahead. But the NSC has insisted this will happen only once the entire Sarfou executive committee steps down.

The seven remaining members of the committee - who are all white - could resign en masse today following allegations of nepotism and racism.

Four other black members resigned last week in protest at Luyt. A spokesman for Sarfou

said that the remaining seven members "may all resign and be re-elected... It would convince the NSC that everything is being done democratically."

Luyt made his resignation official yesterday by faxing a letter to the union's headquarters. This was greeted by Mbebe as "a step in the right direction".

The toll of professional rugby union's punishing season will show this morning when England's coach, Clive Woodward, names his southern hemisphere tour squad at Twickenham.

The list of high-profile absences from the 38-man squad for the tour to New Zealand on 20 and 27 June and should play South Africa on 4 July.

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TIGER WOODS shook off a shaky opening nine holes and held off a steady challenge from Jay Don Blake to win the Bell-South Classic by one stroke on Saturday. He went on to shoot an even-par 72 and finished off at 271, 17-under-par.

Woods, who had not won since taking the Western Open

last July, Jed Blake by three shots entering the final round after setting a new course-record 63 on Saturday. He went on to shoot an even-par 72 and finished off at 271, 17-under-par.

The win ended a string of 15 PGA tournaments without a win for Woods, who won six of the first 21 events he entered as a professional.

golf rankings issued yesterday, overtaking South Africa's Ernie Els who slips down to second place.

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## PHILIPS

### ECOTONIC



Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to MAY 3rd. The player list includes scores from all games played until May 10th. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. The overall winner at the end of the season will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup finals in France this summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal.

Le: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player

scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 point

Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead

directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of

our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and

starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in *The Independent on Sunday*.

| HOW TO SCORE        |    |
|---------------------|----|
| player scores       | 4  |
| clean sheet         | 4  |
| winning goal        | 1  |
| successful assist   | 3  |
| - yellow card       | -1 |
| red card            | -3 |
| manager's team wins | 3  |
| draw                | 0  |

## Independent Fantasy Football

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 10 May

| LEAGUE TABLE |                 |                                |        |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| POS          | NAME            | TEAM                           | POINTS |
| 1            | Mr D Edmundson  | Edmo United                    | 1133   |
| 2            | Mr J Hayes      | Early Birds                    | 1126   |
| 3            | Mr Archer       | No Wright                      | 1113   |
| 3            | Mr C King       | Seeking Victory                | 1113   |
| 3            | Mr P Tulifer    | Pin Ups 4                      | 1113   |
| 3            | Mr D Evans      | Booth End Old Boys             | 1113   |
| 3            | Mr J Cox        | Southville FC                  | 1113   |
| 9            | Mr I Boyle      | Wembley Bounders               | 1105   |
| 9            | Mr A Wingrove   | Tony's Boys                    | 1102   |
| 9            | Mr T Lyons      | Diana's Demons                 | 1102   |
| 12           | Mr M Pawley     | Robert's Raiders               | 1092   |
| 13           | Mr B Sari       | Simply The Best                | 1098   |
| 14           | Mr D Sari       | The Untouchables               | 1096   |
| 14           | Mr D Aston      | Billy's Boys 2nd 11            | 1092   |
| 15           | Mr A Choudi     | Nikies 9th 11                  | 1092   |
| 15           | Mr M Evans      | Mikes A Team                   | 1089   |
| 18           | Mr S Scott      | Unbeatable                     | 1089   |
| 19           | Mr T Brazier    | Wow For Short                  | 1087   |
| 20           | Mr S Scott      | The Dream Team                 | 1084   |
| 21           | Mr M Evans      | I've Started But Will I Finish | 1083   |
| 21           | Mr M Evans      | Mikes A Team                   | 1079   |
| 21           | Mr A Mitchell   | The Eye For It                 | 1079   |
| 21           | Mr K Boyle      | Clogston Rovers                | 1079   |
| 21           | Mr G Bell       | The Hairy Monsters             | 1079   |
| 26           | Mr S Mann       | Rebecca Rovers                 | 1079   |
| 27           | Mr M Evans      | Jacks Lads                     | 1077   |
| 28           | Mr D Ackroyd    | Ameretto FC                    | 1075   |
| 29           | Miss L Wild     | The Hoofers                    | 1070   |
| 30           | Mr I Brown      | Billy's Boys 3rd 11            | 1069   |
| 30           | Mr D Aston      | Reading                        | 1069   |
| 32           | Mr S Scott      | Tim's Tigers                   | 1068   |
| 34           | Mr J McCrossan  | Washed Up Army                 | 1065   |
| 35           | Mr D Deper      | Quick Start                    | 1064   |
| 35           | Mr W Barr       | Brookes Rangers                | 1062   |
| 37           | Mr P Cridland   | PDC2                           | 1060   |
| 38           | Mr A Cunningham | The Zebra                      | 1059   |
| 38           | Mr A Pringle    | Dead Out Rangers               | 1059   |
| 40           | Mr R Dunn       | Warriors                       | 1058   |
| 41           | Mr D Baker      | Dead Heat                      | 1057   |
| 42           | Mr G Bell       | Stunning Stunts                | 1056   |

| CODE PLAYER        | TEAM | WR OF VALUE (100) | CODE PLAYER  | TEAM | WR OF VALUE (100) | CODE PLAYER   | TEAM | WR OF VALUE (100) | CODE PLAYER | TEAM | WR OF VALUE (100) |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|--------------|------|-------------------|---------------|------|-------------------|-------------|------|-------------------|
| <b>GOALKEEPERS</b> |      |                   |              |      |                   |               |      |                   |             |      |                   |
| 300 Seaman         | ARS  | 1 10 45           | 454 Anderson | BLA  | 0 9 25            | 560 Landekran | SOU  | 1 47 12           |             |      |                   |

## 25/RACING

# Bahr's class to make Midnight toil

By Greg Wood

If it is the function of a good Classic trial to offer a few firm hints as to how a more important race may turn out, but without giving the game away entirely, then it seems fair to describe today's Musidora Stakes at York as small but perfectly formed.

Cape Verdi, the favourite for the Oaks on 5 June, will go straight to Epsom without another race (if, indeed, she contests the Oaks at all), but the next two horses in the market, Midnight Line and Bahr, form half the field for the feature event on the first afternoon of a new Flat season at York.

### First show

| York — 2.05     |      |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Horse           | C    | H     | L     | S     | T     |
| Cystal Falls    | 193  | 31    | 52    | 183   | 31    |
| Legend          | 51   | 12    | 61    | 112   | 72    |
| Dark Green      | 74   | 73    | 71    | 122   | 71    |
| Collected Check | 74   | 71    | 71    | 91    | 81    |
| Night Line      | 52   | 81    | 82    | 91    | 52    |
| Taylor          | 81   | 81    | 81    | 81    | 81    |
| White           | 81   | 81    | 81    | 81    | 81    |
| No Clothes      | 131  | 11    | 121   | 121   | 121   |
| Tessellate      | 111  | 11    | 111   | 111   | 111   |
| Despatch        | 181  | 201   | 201   | 201   | 161   |
| Dollman         | 151  | 141   | 181   | 141   | 151   |
| Jack The Lad    | 33-1 | 25-1  | 25-1  | 25-1  | 25-1  |
| African Sun     | 181  | 100-1 | 100-1 | 100-1 | 100-1 |

| York — 2.35                               |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Horse                                     | C   | H   | L   | S   | T   |
| Highbottom                                | 51  | 114 | 92  | 51  | 31  |
| Nautical Star                             | 112 | 51  | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Horizon                                   | 61  | 81  | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Double Action                             | 82  | 72  | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Superior Premium                          | 61  | 102 | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Klasse                                    | 152 | 81  | 71  | 71  | 71  |
| The Puzzler                               | 81  | 81  | 121 | 81  | 81  |
| Belvoir                                   | 101 | 81  | 101 | 81  | 81  |
| Ziggy's Dance                             | 141 | 81  | 81  | 121 | 141 |
| Western Capitalist                        | 81  | 81  | 81  | 121 | 81  |
| Westerly                                  | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 |
| Quintessence                              | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 |
| Onward                                    | 151 | 201 | 201 | 201 | 201 |
| Each way 10/6 the odds, place 1, 2, 3     |     |     |     |     |     |
| C-Cont N-Win H-L, Lachesis, S-Swing T-Tan |     |     |     |     |     |

| York — 3.40                               |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Horse                                     | C   | H   | L   | S   | T   |
| Sheltering Sky                            | 72  | 82  | 82  | 31  | 31  |
| Gibraltar                                 | 51  | 51  | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Double Action                             | 82  | 72  | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Superior Premium                          | 61  | 102 | 51  | 51  | 51  |
| Klasse                                    | 152 | 81  | 71  | 71  | 71  |
| The Puzzler                               | 81  | 81  | 121 | 81  | 81  |
| Belvoir                                   | 101 | 81  | 101 | 81  | 81  |
| Ziggy's Dance                             | 141 | 81  | 81  | 121 | 141 |
| Western Capitalist                        | 81  | 81  | 81  | 121 | 81  |
| Westerly                                  | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 |
| Quintessence                              | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 |
| Onward                                    | 151 | 201 | 201 | 201 | 201 |
| Each way 10/6 the odds, place 1, 2, 3     |     |     |     |     |     |
| C-Cont N-Win H-L, Lachesis, S-Swing T-Tan |     |     |     |     |     |

meanwhile, went on to take the Oaks itself, so victory for the favourite today will see her shrink to within a point or so of Cape Verdi, who is top-priced at 15-8 with the tote this morning, in the classic betting given.

Four of those winners,

that she is trained by Henry Cecil, who has won five of the last 11 runnings of the Musidora, which will persuade punters to reach for some chunky bundles of banknotes this afternoon.

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Bahr  
(York 3.10)  
NB: Raffaello  
(York 2.35)

The shorter the price, however, the greater the need to question a horse's form, and there are at least two worries which remove Midnight Line from consideration as a betting proposition today. The first is the actual merit of her win at Newmarket, given that the opposition was far from outstanding and the time of the race merely reasonable.

The second comes in the hands of Bahr herself, who arrives at York unbeaten in her two races as a juvenile. Both successes were recorded in the style of a very promising filly, and while she is making her seasonal debut today, she cannot be far from peak fitness given

that the Oaks itself is just three and a half weeks away. It would be no surprise to see Bahr (3.10) overturn the odds laid on Midnight Line, and if the rush for Cecil's filly pushes the price of her main opponent out to near, say, 2-1, she would certainly be worth a bet.

The televised supporting card today is composed of three handicaps, but since these are York handicaps, which always seem that little bit more tractable than those at many other courses, all are worth a second look. The most valuable is the rated stakes for three-year-olds, which includes several whose ability is far from fully exposed, with Sweet Reward

(2.35) likely to go well at a fair price. Crystal Falls seems sure to start favourite for the opener after an unlucky second last time out, and with Frankie Dettori on board will certainly go close, but the Italian's great rival Kieren Fallon could frustrate him again on Largesse (next best 2.05).

The sprint too has an obvious favourite in Sheltering Sky, who won in style at Newmarket's Guinea meeting. Again, though, a better alternative may be to scan the remainder, and GEIMHRUUL (map 3.40), who was going well in the same race until lack of condition got the better of him, may turn the tables today.

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# Survival game beyond newcomers

Promoted one season to the élite; relegated the next. Guy Hodgson looks for the causes of the Premiership's yo-yo syndrome

ON THE way back from Blackburn on Sunday evening the stark difference between inclusion and exclusion from the Premiership was driven home. On one road a bedraggled sign reading "Good luck Bolton" was sadly being taken down while on the M60 a car with Everton scarves draped from the windows had the word "Phew!" in the back window.

Safety and relegation; relief if you had taken a poll of football supporters a fortnight ago most would have the moneybags of Everton or Tottenham living in the reduced circumstances of the First Division in preference to Barnsley and Bolton. Some benefit it did them. As Danny Wilson put it succinctly: "All the goodwill in the world will not get you points."

There was local angst on Sunday night, but despair spread beyond the local communities of South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester (or south London in Crystal Palace's case) to everyone who embraces democracy in football. For the three promoted sides of 1996-97 to go straight back to the First Division seemed to emphasise the gap that has grown between the Premiership and the rest.

The City thought so, too, yesterday wiping around a quarter off the value of the shares in Burden Leisure, the company that owns Bolton. That was not football romanticism speaking but cold, realistic money. Leave the Premiership at the bottom end and you are relegated in tables more pertinent than the ones that read: played, won, drawn and lost.

Look over a longer period and a pattern is emerging. Seven of the 11 teams who have been promoted in the last four seasons have returned to

## The numbers game: How the Premiership strugglers spent the season

### Everton – stayed up



| INS:               | OUTS:                      |  |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Steven Bilic £4.5m |                            |  |
| Gareth Farnaby     | Aston Villa £700,000       |  |
| John Barnes        | Leeds United £1.5m         |  |
| Tony Thomas        | Tranmere £450,000          |  |
| Danny Hoddison     | West Brom £200k            |  |
| Thomas Miyake      | Viking Sarpsborg £200,000  |  |
| Carl Higginbotham  | Sheffield United £250,000  |  |
| Mick Ward          | Sheffield United £250,000  |  |
| Michael Laudrup    | Deportivo La Coruna Free   |  |
| John O'Kane        | Manchester United £400,000 |  |
| Dave Bassett       | Sheffield United £1m       |  |
| Matt McKay         | Chester City £250,000      |  |
| John Spencer       | GPR £1.5m                  |  |

| INS:             | OUTS:                     |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mike Gilchrist   | Lausanne £250,000         |  |
| David Unsworth   | West Ham £2m              |  |
| Graham Stuart    | Sheffield United £250,000 |  |
| Andy Hinchliffe  | Sheffield Wednesday £2m   |  |
| Gary Speed       | Newcastle United £25.5m   |  |
| John Hills       | Blackpool £75,000         |  |
| Joe O'Connor     | Sheffield United Nominal  |  |
| Eam Barrett      | Sheffield Wednesday Free  |  |
| Claus Thomsen    | AB Copenhagen £500,000    |  |
| Neville Southall | Stoke Free                |  |

TOTAL INS: £15.7m TOTAL OUTS: £11.95m DEFICIT: £3.75m

### Bolton – relegated



| INS:              | OUTS:                     |  |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Robbie Elliott    | Middlesbrough £1.5m       |  |
| #Palace           | Newcastle United £2.2m    |  |
| Beardsley         | Newcastle United £450,000 |  |
| Mark Fish         | Lazio £2m                 |  |
| Mike Whitlow      | Leicester City £250,000   |  |
| Amar Gunkarsson   | IA of Alkmaar £100,000    |  |
| Dean Holdsworth   | Wimbledon £3.5m           |  |
| Jussi Jaskelainen | VPS Finland £250,000      |  |
| Gustavo Stallenza | Nantes Free               |  |
| John Salako       | Coventry Free             |  |

TOTAL INS: £10.6m TOTAL OUTS: £2.425m DEFICIT: £8.175m

### Barnsley – relegated



| INS:           | OUTS:                     |  |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Lars Lees      | Bayer Leverkusen £250,000 |  |
| Georgi Hristov | Paritan Belgrade £1.5m    |  |
| Eric Tindler   | Capri £650,000            |  |
| Daren Barnard  | Bristol City £750,000     |  |
| Ashley Ward    | Derby £1.3m               |  |
| Jan Aage Fondt | Vasteras SK £250,000      |  |
|                | Sheffield United £250,000 |  |

TOTAL INS: £5.55m TOTAL OUTS: £325,000 DEFICIT: £5.225m

### Crystal Palace – relegated



| INS:              | OUTS:             |  |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Kevin Miller      | Watford £1.3m     |  |
| Hermann Hraldsson | Iceland £350,000  |  |
| Jamie Fullerton   | Basti £1.25m      |  |
| Paul Warhurst     | Blackburn £1.2m   |  |
| Attilio Lombardo  | Juventus £1.2m    |  |
| Izak Zohar        | Wolves £2m        |  |
| Neil Embell       | Royal Antwerp £1m |  |
| Jamie Smith       | Leeds £1.7m       |  |
| Michele Padovano  | Juventus £200,000 |  |
| Marcus Bent       | Brentford £2.75m  |  |
| Valerian Ismael   | Strasbourg Free   |  |
| Tomas Brilir      | Leeds £1m         |  |
| Matt Jarman       | Carlisle £1m      |  |
| Sasa Ceric        | Aston Villa £1m   |  |

TOTAL INS: £15.45m TOTAL OUTS: £6.15m DEFICIT: £7.3m

the First Division immediately while another two have also gone down since. Only Derby and Leicester City have survived, the latter at the second attempt, and even they were not without worries last spring.

That is understood; the remedy is less clear. Barnsley spent £5.5m last summer, Bolton £10.6m and Crystal Palace £15.45m and still they went down. Two of the teams just above them, Newcastle and Everton, have bankrolled their safety to the tune of £50m in the last four seasons.

So what does it take to endure beyond a first brush with England's élite? The first ingredient, without question, is money. Only Wimbledon have defied the downward pull of

relative poverty over a lengthy period and they have had years of practice. Only an exceptional First Division side could prosper at a more rarefied level.

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This payment, which last two seasons automatically gives those teams who drop into the First Division an advantage – it is no coincidence at least two of last year's three relegated clubs will return next season – but the rest of the financial package is loaded against newcomers to the top flight.

Premiership clubs receive £8m a season on average from

television rights while members of the First Division get around £800,000. That is a gigantic imbalance when it comes to buying but also means better players prefer to reap big wages in the reserves of Manchester United, Liverpool et al rather than drop a level. There are not many First Division players these days who would get automatic places with bigger clubs.

Of course, there is a difference in how you spend rather than how much. Leicester's most expensive purchase in their first season in the Premiership was Matt Elliott, a cen-

tre-back, while Derby also built from the back around Igor Stiizic. Barnsley learned too late that mistakes which went unpunished in the First Division lead to goals at a higher level and it is dubious whether Palace ever took that on board.

Which, in turn, leads to the man spending the money. Jim Smith and Martin O'Neill have been astute buyers, eschewing one big purchase in favour of spreading their money over a wider area. Smith, in particular, has benefited from foreign players with cheaper price tags. In contrast numerous Everton managers have shelled out mil-

lions of Peter Johnson's pounds and got very little in return.

But you could be Alex Ferguson with the backing of Old Trafford's riches and get nowhere unless fate smiles on you. Injuries can lay waste to good teams and the market can be a lottery. Even Jim Smith says he is surprised at Paul Wincske's impact while Dean Holdsworth looked a 24-carat Premiership striker when Bolton bought him from Wimbledon and managed just three goals. Is that luck or judgement?

Then there is the impenetrable, the bad decision. They even themselves out, it is said, although you would be hard pressed to convince Bolton supporters who remember that Gerry Taggart had a header disallowed in the very first match at the Reebok Stadium even though television evidence showed the ball had crossed the line. The opponents that day were Everton. That "goal" was the thin line between safety and the oblivion of relegation.

Nottingham Forest, Middlesbrough and whoever comes up with them will need a lot going for them next season but ask a manager what he wants most and he would give you a one-word answer. Luck.

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## Bilic blasts Everton's broken promises

By Alan Nixon

THE Everton chairman, Peter Johnson, was accused of breaking promises on major signings last night – by one of his own players.

The unhappy Slaven Bilic, bought for £4.5m from West Ham, claimed he was told he would be part of a £15m revolution at the club. Now, though, the Croatian international defender has hit out at Johnson for going back on a plan to buy two Italian players, Dino Baggio and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Bilic said: "I was made promises before I signed, I was told so many things, but I could see straight away it was not like that. I was told by Joe Royle that he was going to buy me, Baggio and Casiraghi. He told me he wanted me to be his leader of the field.

"I could have pulled out of the deal when Joe was sacked," Bilic added, "but the chairman spoke to me and said that even though he [Royle] had gone it was the same story."

Bilic said that the failure to close the deals for the Parma midfielder Baggio and the Lazio striker Casiraghi was one of the main reasons the club slumped. He said: "Missing out on those players was not the

only reason for our disappointing season, but maybe with Baggio and Casiraghi we could have been fighting for the championship."

Bilic also attacks the club for selling some of their best players during the season and not replacing them with suitable talent.

"We had to do without Gary Speed, Andy Hinchliffe and Graham Stuart. It's hard to lose that quality from the team," he said. "Why sell the best players from positions we are already short in?"

"It was unbelievable that we did not sign somebody before the transfer deadline. We didn't even make the effort to show people we were trying."

Bilic always seemed likely to be on his way this summer, and Howard Kendall left him out of Everton's last game against

Coventry. His words may now have guaranteed his exit.

Newcastle's David Batty faces a possible Football Association misconduct charge, and a possible six-game ban for the start of next season.

Batty is in trouble for apparently pushing the referee, David Elleray, after he was sent off at his former club, Blackburn, on Sunday. Referees are under strict orders to stamp down on players managing them, with Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit and West Ham's Steve Lomas singled out this season. Both were given fines and lengthened suspensions.

As Batty's third red card of the season was for violent conduct, that already guarantees him a five-match ban for the opening weeks of next season.

Swedish police are prepared for the worst when Chelsea meet Germany's VfB Stuttgart in the European Cup-winners' Cup final in Stockholm tomorrow.

Up to 1,000 police will be on duty at the Rasmus stadium, the largest police presence at a Swedish sports event since the 1992 European Championships.

"We are ready for the worst. But we also want to create an atmosphere where everything will go well and smoothly," a police spokesman said.

## Matthäus out of twilight zone

BERTI VOGLTS, Germany's coach, has rescued his former captain Lothar Matthäus from the international wilderness and put him in his World Cup squad – alongside his old rival Jürgen Klinsmann.

Matthäus, Germany's most capped player with 122 appearances for his country, is the surprise inclusion in Germany's 22-man squad for the finals in France. He last represented his country against Albania on December 18, 1994.

Matthäus was dropped from the German team two years ago, just before Euro '96, and chose at the time to criticise Vogts and to attack Klinsmann for allegedly lobbying to have him removed from the squad. The 37-year-old's international career had appeared to be over, but the long-term absence of

Matthäus from the national side has been a source of concern for the German media, with many questioning whether he would be able to cope with the pressure of representing his country again.

Matthäus has responded by saying that he is fully fit and ready for the tournament, and that he is looking forward to playing for his country once again.

He has also stated that he is grateful to Vogts for giving him the opportunity to represent Germany again, and that he is happy to be part of the team.

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# Henman gets to grips with clay game

## Tennis

By John Roberts  
in Rome

**COURT NO 5** at the Foro Italico is much grander than it sounds, situated close to the Olympic Stadium and flanked by rows of Mediterranean pines. It was in this beautiful setting yesterday that Tim Henman produced one of the most startling results by a Briton on clay for years. The 23-year-old from Oxford demolished Fabrice Santoro, 6-1, 6-0.

Only three weeks ago in Monte Carlo, the clever Frenchman humiliated Pete Sampras, 6-1, 6-1, inflicting on the Wimbledon champion his first defeat for eight years. "I dug a big hole for myself," Sampras said.

Santoro's performance yesterday suggested that he was longing for a hole to save him from further embarrassment. He arrived for the Italian Open saying he was tired after competing in Hamburg last week, and was simply no match for Henman, who appears to have gained from the adversity of struggling to master the sport's slowest surface.

It will be interesting to see if Henman's improvement continues in his second round match, in which he will play either Marcelo Rios, the brilliant young Chilean ground-stroker who was briefly No 1 in the world until sidelined by an elbow injury, or Marzio Martelli, an Italian wild card, ranked No 140.

Unfortunately, Greg Rusedski was unable to contribute to

one of his most animated responses came after Henman struck a backhand volley directly at his body in the third game of the second set. Santoro managed to deflect the ball with his racket, and then appeared to spit towards the net. The umpire, Romano Grillotti, had a word with Santoro during the changeover.

Henman described the win as a "big boost", a performance he placed alongside those



Staying focused: Tim Henman watches the ball during his win over Fabrice Santoro in Rome yesterday. Photograph: AP

against Petr Korda and Carlos Rojas on the concrete courts at the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne.

He emphasised that, "to beat someone like Santoro is a pretty good win for most people, but for me it's a very good win. I went into the match as an underdog, probably by a long way. A lot of people would have bet on Santoro. But I've improved a lot since Monte Carlo. I can stay in rallies much longer."

Rusedski was unable to take any of four break points in the fourth game, but recovered immediately after losing his

serve for 3-2 and double-faulted on the concluding point when serving for the set at 5-3.

He was then trapped in mid-court when Ulihrach lobbed to win the set, one of several occasions that the Czech's cunning paid off.

After saving break points at 4-4 and 5-5 in the second set, Rusedski screamed in anguish as he missed a low backhand volley on his first set point at 6-5.

He led 3-0 in the tie-break, but was overhauled and had to save

a match point at 5-6 before creating two more set points, at 7-6 and 8-7.

Rusedski then double-faulted to offer Ulihrach a second match point at 8-9, hitting a service return high and wide and then hurling his racket towards his chair, knocking over a waste basket.

Rusedski was not the only frustrated player. Petr Korda, the second seed, was eliminated, 6-2, 6-4, by Hicham Arazi, of Morocco.

## Super League holds firm on disciplinary policy

### Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

The Rugby League has rejected an appeal from Super League to change its disciplinary procedures to avoid the uncertainty that both Leeds and Wigan could have faced before their eagerly awaited match on Friday.

Super League wants hearings moved from Thursday to earlier in the week, so that coaches will know whether players sent off or placed on report will be available.

### Sporting Digest

#### England to face tougher tests

##### Hockey

ENGLAND'S games this evening at the Milton Keynes National Stadium will give an indication of what might be expected of them at the World Cup, which starts in Utrecht tomorrow week, writes Bill Colwill.

The women, who have not lost since their 4-2 victory over the Australian Olympic and world champions in Perth in January, can expect a tougher game against them this evening.

##### Today's fixtures

**FOOTBALL** AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Torquay v Southampton (2.0); Arsenal v West Ham (2.0).

**RUGBY UNION** WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Shropshire v Newbridge (7.0); Rumney v Aberystwyth (7.0).

**CRICKET** T20 WORLD CUP (One-day matches, 11.00 start): Dorsetshire v M&S Counties v Middlesex; Taurton; Somerset v Glamorgan; The Oval; Surrey v Essex; Castleford; Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire.

Leeds' Marc Glanville was dismissed at London last Friday, and Wigan's Andy Farrell was reported during his game at Sheffield the following day, although he was told that he has no case to offer.

"In this day and age, there is no reason why Super League hearings cannot be held on a Monday or Tuesday, so that clubs will know where they stand," said Super League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay.

The prospect of a Super League record crowd for the match has been stymied by

council safety officers reducing Headingley's capacity to 18,750.

Wigan plan to use the money they have made by selling their winger Rob Smyth, to retain their sought-after utility back, Darryl Cardiss.

If Glanville, who is accused of stamping on an opponent's hand, is suspended, the Leeds coach, Graham Murray, could bring in Barrie McDermott, who completed his own ban by playing on loan for Bramley at Workington on Sunday.

The prospect of a Super League record crowd for the match has been stymied by

council safety officers reducing Headingley's capacity to 18,750.

It will also be a score to settle in the men's game against New Zealand. When the teams last met in Malaysia in March, England shipped three goals in the opening 11 minutes before winning 4-5.

The Kiwis have made one change from that squad, the return of their most capped player and former captain Jamie Smith who was injured at the time.

England have enjoyed an even run since Malaysia, with six victories in six outings, scoring 32 goals in the process.

But the crunch comes at Milton Keynes this evening. Both England teams expect to be at full strength.

**Baseball**

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Tampa Bay 4; Baltimore 3; Boston 3; Kansas City 1; New York Yankees 7; Minnesota 4; Chicago White Sox 4; Colorado 3; Detroit 3; Toronto 2; Detroit 2; Anaheim 4; Cleveland 3; Texas 5.

NATIONAL PARKS: Los Angeles 4; Florida 2; Atlanta 8; San Diego 5; Colorado 5; Montreal 4; Arizona 3; San Francisco 4; Pittsburgh 3 (12 innings); Houston 7; Milwaukee 1; San Francisco 3; Chicago Cubs 0. Postponed: St Louis v New York Mets.

**Basketball**

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Madrid (Spain) 85 v (Croatia) 75.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: First round: USA 100 (USA) 100 v Spain 99 (Spain) 98.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS: First round: Golden State (USA) 100 v (Croatia) 98.

NETHERLANDS CUP: First round: (Croatia) 85 v (Spain) 80.

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NET

## Jansen had 'no future' at Celtic

### Football

By Phil Gordon

HE came, he saw, he conquered. Yet, in the end, Wim Jansen went the way of Lou Macari and Tommy Burns as Fergus McCann saw his third manager off the Parkhead premises.

The Celtic chairman revealed last night that Jansen would have been ditched by the newly crowned Scottish champions if he had not decided to quit, just 48 hours after guiding the club to a first title in 10 years.

Jansen's way of working angered McCann enough to raise no protest when the taciturn Dutchman informed the club yesterday from Portugal, where he has taken the Celtic team for a friendly with Sporting Lisbon, that he wanted to use the special escape clause in his three-year contract.

McCann claimed last night that Jansen had no long-term ambition to work at Celtic and accused him of "short-termism". In outlining the flaws of the man who played in two World Cup Finals for the Netherlands, it was clear that, as far as McCann was concerned, the future was not orange. "It was the opinion of the board and me that he could not have continued long-term," McCann declared last night.

Outside, a few hundred demonstrators chanted: "Fergus, Fergus, what's the score?" They demanded to know why the club had taken the astonishing action to part with a man who had just guided them to the trophy they had waited so long for, and, at a stroke, ended Rangers' monopoly of the league.

On Saturday, Parkhead had been teeming with 50,000 jubilant fans paying homage to Jansen and his players for delivering the holy grail. But McCann is not a football man – and that owes a great deal to the parting of the ways with the maverick Dutchman, who refused to toe the line that McCann claimed last night.

Jansen has hinted he was unhappy about being curtailed in spending, although he used £12.4m to acquire new players which brought Celtic ultimate success. However, the CV of a man who has never stayed longer than two years in any coaching job backs up McCann's assessment that clearly Celtic were going to have to look for a new coach sooner rather than later.

Jansen said from Lisbon that his decision was about "principles" and not about money, and that he has not been contacted by another club.

The Survival Game, page 26

### Cricket

By Derek Pringle

SOUTH AFRICA'S cricketers flew into England yesterday conscious that cricket is just one of the responsibilities they will need to address over the coming months. With Louis Luy's recent departure as president of South Africa's rugby union, in part due to alleged racism, every sport is under scrutiny, even one as carefully run as cricket. Apartheid may have been widely renounced, but has not been entirely resolved.

In a nation undergoing severe growing pains, sport offers a diversion which cannot afford to be tarnished, and that includes cricket.

Tokenism can be a debilitating word in a team game like cricket, for it undermines the confidence of team and individual alike. Fortunately in the six years since South Africa's cricketers returned to the Test stage, merit has taken over.

There are three non-white cricketers in their 17-man squad. Paul Adams (aged 21) and Makhaya Ntini (20) have both played Test cricket, while Roger Telemachus (25), a swing bowler, has one-day international experience.

"The term we use," said Bob Woolmer, the team coach, "is non-racial team. In other words it's picked from the best players in South Africa. There is no doubt in my mind that Roger Telemachus and Makhaya Ntini are very fine cricketers in their own right and they deserve to be here on tour."

Hansie Cronje, the captain and a man from Afrikaner stock, went further. "When I first came to England, the question that kept coming up was 'when are we going to see the first black South African to play?' Well I'm very proud to say the time has come and Makhaya will be the first in a long line of black South African players." The distinction being

made is that the other two, in a hangover from the bad old days, are still referred to as Cape Coloureds.

"It is not a case of token players," continued Cronje. "It is a case of players coming over here and doing a lot of hard work. They realise that and want to be great examples to the next generation. In fact they've already been terrific role models for the youth of South Africa. As a captain it's ideal for me to work with a team where there is no extra pressure from racial talk."

Despite the plaudits, however, a regular place still eludes all three. That is not surprising, perhaps, with respect to the two pace bowlers Ntini and Telemachus, who have to compete with Alan Donald and Shaun Pollock. But in Adams' case, it is disappointing that his unorthodox left-arm spin has not improved much since his debut against England in 1995.

When South Africa toured here four years ago, they were still naive. They are still not as clinical as Australia, but the potency of Donald and Pollock has done more than most to harden the brittle edges. Indeed, there has been only one century opening stand against South Africa since their return to Test cricket in 1992.

It is a soaring testament to the pair, especially to the 31-year-old Donald, whose fast and accurate bowling is the reason South Africa are just behind Australia and Pakistan in world ratings.

"I'm just looking forward to them firing together," said Woolmer, who at one stage became so wrapped up in hyperbole that he claimed Pollock to be the best all-rounder since Gary Sobers.

Mind you, their attack provides a sobering thought, particularly with England's opening pairing likely to be compromised by Alec Stewart's drop down the order and Michael Atherton's scrappy form. Unless

England try and prepare turning pitches like the one against Australia at The Oval last August, this series will be won by the team who best combats the pace bowlers.

South Africa's means of trying to achieve this will be very different from England's. Their Achilles' heel, apart from their captain's tendency to be unimaginative, is the fallibility of their early order. To offset this they have a middle and lower order brimming of all-rounders; players such as Jacques Kallis, Brian McMillan, Lance Klusener and Pat Symcox all bat and bowl, while the wicketkeeper, Mark Boucher, can also score valuable runs.

Whether they can do that with the help of some heroic performances from their non-white players remains to be seen. Interestingly, while Cronje and Co were giving their press conference in the England and Wales Cricket Board offices at Lord's, another was being given next door by the Cricket Foundation.

The Foundation was airing the findings of a report it had commissioned on the levels of racism in English cricket at the grassroots level. South Africa may still be bearing the brunt of racial discrimination, but judging by the study, which looked into equal opportunities of cricketers from ethnic minorities in Essex and east London, the ECB has a challenge on its hands as well.

"We know they are two dif-

## Cronje conjures vision of harmony

### Cricket

By Derek Pringle

ENGLAND'S cricketers yesterday endorsed Lord MacLaurin's proposed changes to the domestic structure of the game but called for Lord's to allow them greater independence as a professional body.

All three major issues on the agenda at the emergency general meeting of the Professional Cricketers' Association at Edgbaston – the format of the County Championship, a review of the registration rules and a demand for an increased share of television revenue – received healthy support from the biggest assembly of players of the income.

More than 200 of the PCA's 415 members attended the meeting, convened following

last September's decision by the counties to reject the England and Wales Cricket Board chairman's proposal for a two-division Championship with promotion and relegation.

Including some of the postal votes, 157 of which still have to be counted, 84 per cent of those who voted backed a two-division Championship, 93 per cent rejected the current registration regulations and there was 100 per cent backing for the PCA's campaign to be regarded as the 19th county when the ECB shares out the expanding TV revenue – which could be worth around £1m a year, when the ECB apportions a share of the income.

The majority backing, which represents an increase in support from last September when

two-thirds of the members endorsed a two-division Championship prior to the counties' vote, gives the PCA executive the mandate to discuss the situation with the Board.

"We have got through phase one, which was to get as many players together as possible and discuss things and now we have to go and talk to the Board," explained the PCA chairman, Matthew Fleming.

The PCA's decision is unlikely to force a change in the counties' 12-7-vote in favour of retaining the current Championship structure and rewarding the top eight finishers with a one-day tournament at the beginning of next season – a format which is in place for the next three years.

## Players support MacLaurin's two-tier Championship

By Myles Hodgson

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## McKinney hitch for Hamed

### Boxing

KENNEDY McKinNEY is one of three opponents short-listed to fight Naseem Hamed on 18 July, according to the promoter Frank Warren.

Contrary to reports over the weekend, Warren says he has not signed the American for Hamed's 12th defence of the World Boxing Organisation featherweight title to take place in either Las Vegas, New York or Atlantic City.

"We are certainly talking to

McKinney's people, but he is

only one of three possible op-

ponents," Warren said. "I don't want to name the others. I've heard that people are saying it will be held in Britain, but I'm looking at venues in the United States."

Warren was to have announced the fight at London's Dorchester Hotel on Sunday, but a late hitch apparently could not be overcome in time.

McKinney, from Memphis,

caused a shock by stopping

Junior Jones to win the WBO

super-bantamweight title in

December.

Jones had already signed to

challenge Hamed, but that de-

feat ruined the fight, and McK-

inney expected to move to the head of the queue to meet Hamed.

McKinney said recently: "They were going to give Junior Jones the shot if he beat me. I have a message for the Prince. We spoke to each other in New York about fighting each other and you said that if I beat Jones, I'd get the fight. Now it's put up or shut up."

Meanwhile, Warren reports

that McKinney has been

stripped of the WBO super-ban-

tam weight title, which leaves Liver-

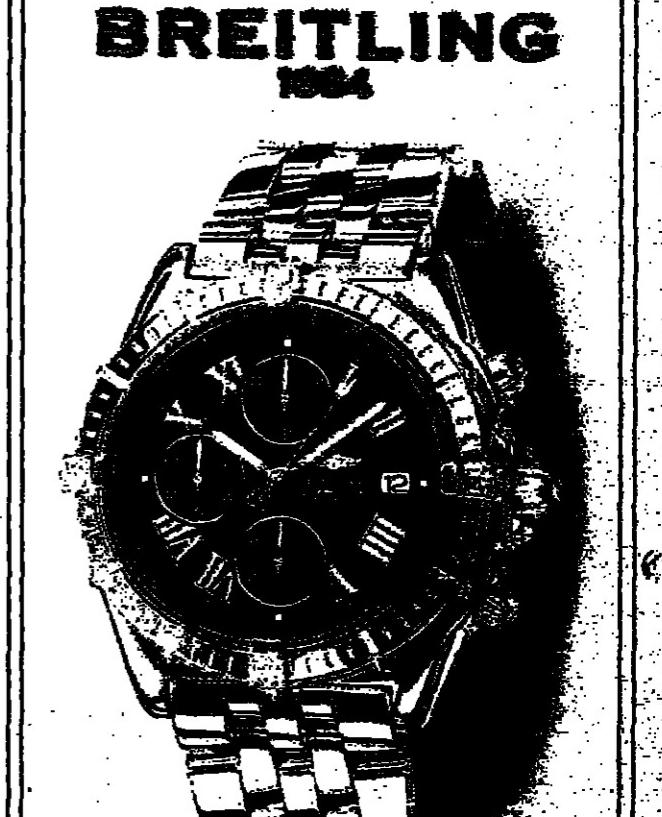
pool's No 1 contender, Richie

Wenton, looking for another op-

ponent to meet on 6 June.

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| 27 |    |   | 28 |   |   |    |   |

ACROSS

- 1 Of course it's a feature of any school (10)
- 6 New upper-class doctor's insensitive (4)
- 10 Wrongly accuses, throwing a second win (7)
- 11 Resigned sign at report of straw house (5-2)
- 12 It's said those agreeing to transport can be a bit of a pain (9)
- 13 Weary Irish MP suppresses rage (5)
- 14 Musical work to begin potentially right before one (5)
- 15 Double-dealing of awful cheaters on railway (9)
- 17 To move fast is male selfish advancement (9)
- 20 Transfer liquid lead for moulding, about a pound (5)

DOWN

- 21 Tiny South London street (5)
- 22 Brawl which is material to wild game (9)
- 25 Instructions to increase number of revs? (7)
- 26 Wicked man has name for being overwhelmed by debts (7)
- 27 Unimpressive May Day circle? (2-2)
- 28 Until area is cleared line can be seen only on one side (10)
- 29 Derange a French male with the key to everything (7)
- 30 Drug supplier's rendered powerless by this attendant (5)
- 31 Related person gets "A"? (5,4)
- 32 20% writer, 100% traitor? (5,9)
- 33 Times when conservative company brought up Asians we hear (9)
- 34 Attempt to find name of Captain Cook's ship (9)
- 35 Compound abuse, almost popular (7)
- 36 Official spoils Prince (7)
- 37 High peaks of land established (5)
- 38 Support as found in erection of shelter (5)

MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, EPOLE, ODEO, DEADSCENT, UNSTOPPABLE, INK, SDFP, OMNIS, OLDISCHOOL, CEDAR, IRWE, RULING, PASSION, AMUSEMENT, PARK, FAITHLESS, WAGGON, FAMA, AEGOH, IDEATE, ABSURSE, RENE, LHNNA, METTLE, DEBATED.

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